

# THE JERUSALEM POST

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## IDF to PA: Do more to have closure eased

**ARIEH O'SULLIVAN**

MAJ.-GEN. Oren Shahor, the government coordinator in the territories, complained to the Palestinian Authority in Gaza yesterday that it is not following through with agreed upon steps that would help ease the closure.

Specifically, PA officials seemingly ignored Israeli approval for reactivating a loading station at the Erez crossing which would allow raw materials, such as gravel and cement, in to supply Gaza's crippled construction industry, said Shlomo Dror, Shahor's spokesman.

They also did not follow through with agreements to improve security arrangements at the Karu crossing, such as erecting fences, increasing guards, and reducing loads so they could be more easily checked sizes, Dror said.

The Dizengoff suicide bomber succeeded in slipping through the crossing and, under the strict security restrictions now in place, less than 40 trucks a day have been able to use it, Dror noted.

He said Shahor has repeatedly stressed to the Palestinians that Israel wants to ease the closure as much as possible, without compromising its security. "But we feel that the PA is not ready to advance steps to ease the closure," Dror said.

Meanwhile, IDF officers told their Palestinian counterparts that the closure would not be eased unless they get serious in the war against Islamic militants.

For the first time in four weeks, top IDF commanders in Judea and Samaria held a meeting with Gen. Haj Ismail Jaber, the head of the West Bank.

(Continued on Page 2)



Labor Party members line up in Jerusalem to vote during yesterday's primaries. (Reuters)

## Netanyahu: Vote for entire party leadership

**SARAH HONIG**

LIKUD chairman Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday exhorted party members to vote for "the entire Likud leadership and ignore all deals and preferred lists" in today's primaries.

Netanyahu thereby unequivocally dissociated himself from lists said to be circulating in the party branches from which various key figures are conspicuously absent. On one such list, MKs Dan Meridor and Ariel Sharon were not included; on another MK Ze'ev Binyamin Begin.

Netanyahu, said his aides, knows nothing about the lists and is not even sure they exist. Many of the reports, they maintained, originate in malicious rumor-mongering, especially among the activists in the regional races. Some rumors ascribe the lists to Netanyahu himself or to his aides, claiming that he is seeking to block Meridor, Sharon, and Begin.

Sharon said he "will look into the reports, but I am not sure they are true. I think it's illogical that anyone would do

such a thing."

Netanyahu argued that "it is not possible to fix the votes of tens of thousands of party members. This is not a small gathering."

He called on the voters "specifically to include all the names reportedly excluded from the lists. Vote for Sharon and Meridor and Begin. We need the best team. I want to see the entire party leadership lead the next list. The members must remember that they are voting for the best team possible and must put aside all other considerations. Don't let anyone influence your vote and dictate lists. Let only your good judgment be your guide."

As the final preparations were being made to open the polling stations at 7 a.m. today, the main worry was about the computers, as the Likud will be introducing computerized voting for the first time in the country's history. A computer malfunction could wreak hav-

oc and delay the publication of results, scheduled for two hours after the polls close at 10 p.m.

There will be 572 computer terminals in 80 polling stations around the country. The 170,000 eligible voters will be asked only to touch the names they prefer on the screen. They will have to pick 20 of the 73 candidates in the nationwide race and will also have to choose one candidate from the region in which they reside. In all, 45 candidates are running in the regional races.

Two-thirds of the Knesset candidates will be chosen from the nationwide races, against 50 percent in Labor. The Likud contest is even more grueling because of the 14 slots lost to Tsomet and Geshet candidates.

Another worry was continued stormy weather, which could result in a lower-than-anticipated turnout, especially as the Likud has less polling stations than Labor, meaning that in many cases the voters will have to travel further to reach them.

## TV polls show Barak, Baram heading list

**MICHAL YUDELMAN**

TELEVISION polls right after Labor's primary voting showed Foreign Minister Ehud Barak and Tourism Minister Uzi Baram gaining the most votes, with Interior Minister Haim Ramon finishing third.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres, who did not have to run in the primaries, has first place on the party's Knesset list. The seventh slot is reserved for party secretary-general Nissim Zivili.

Barak was first in Channel 1's poll, with Baram a very close second, followed by Ramon, Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, Ori Orr, Shevah Weiss, Yossi Beilin, Avraham Shohat, David Liba'i, Efraim Sneh, Dalia Itzik, Ora Namir, Moshe Shahal, Shlomo Ben-Ami, Hagai Merom, Yael Dayan, Shimon Shetreet, and Ya'acov Terner.

Baram was first on Channel 2's poll, with Barak close behind, followed by Ramon, Ben-Eliezer, Beilin, Shohat, Orr, Weiss, Sneh, Liba'i, Itzik, Merom, Namir, Shahal, Shetreet, Ben-Ami, Eli Dayan, Terner, Yael Dayan, and Micha Harish as No. 20, which will be slot 47 or 48 on the final list.

Suspense peaked in Tel Aviv's Fair Grounds last night with the release of both channels' polls, which are considered a fairly accurate indication of the actual results, expected only this morning.

The difference among the first five in each poll was minute, and the order of the leading candidates could change in the actual results.

Barak and Baram are clearly the big winners. Orr's success ensures his cabinet seat, as did (probably) Itzik's, who beat Namir in last night's polls, while Beilin established his place in Labor's most senior leadership.

Ramon's fears of revenge from the voters, following his abandoning Labor to run for the Histadrut chairmanship on his own list, were proven groundless and he won an extremely high slot, after Barak and Baram.

The most impressive breakthrough was achieved by Ben-Ami, a new face who the polls had predicted would not make it. Prime Minister Shimon Peres clearly wanted to see him in the Knesset and made last-minute efforts to persuade voters to vote for him.

The losers are Harish and Shetreet, who may find themselves in unrealistic slots. Even if they make it into the Knesset, they likely will lose their cabinet seats, should Labor win. Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan may also be out.

Other MKs who did not make it to realistic Knesset places are Ya'acov Sheffi, Yoram Lass, Eli Ben-Menahem, Yossi Vanunu.

(Continued on Page 2)

## Israel, EU sign science pact

**DAVID MAKOVSKY**

ISRAEL and the European Union yesterday signed a scientific cooperation agreement in Brussels. Under its terms, scientists from both sides will be able to work together in technology-oriented research programs.

Israel is the first non-European country to be associated with EU research programs, which also gives it access to European private industry. Israeli scientists will also be eligible to receive financial support from the EU. Nuclear cooperation, and apparently other forms of military cooperation, are excluded.

Furthermore, Israel will be able to participate as an observer in EU meetings, known as the Fourth Research and Technical Development Framework Program, which decides how EU funds for research are to be allocated. To participate, Israel will contribute approximately NIS 120 million a year, EU officials said.

The signing of the agreement is considered a major achievement - critics say the only one - in the upgraded EU-Israel free trade agreement signed last fall. That agreement, the product of years of negotiations, is not expected to significantly diminish the mammoth \$7.4 billion trade deficit with the EU.

Edith Cresson, European Commissioner for research, and Italian Research Minister Giorgio Salvini signed on behalf of the EU, while Ambassador to the EU Ephraim Halevy signed on behalf of Israel.

"This agreement will allow European scientists to work in close cooperation with top-level scientists in many of the advanced sectors in which Israel has a leading position, and Israeli scientists to extend their cooperation with all European countries, with economic and industrial implications," Cresson said.

"The agreement represents a further deepening of Israel's relations with the European Community and a recognition of its high level of research," Israel's EU mission said in a statement.

## New Meretz list shows no surprises

**MICHAL YUDELMAN**

MERETZ yesterday presented its new list of Knesset candidates, which looked much like its last one, without Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni and Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban, who have retired from politics.

The first 12 on the list are Chairmen Yossi Sarid (Citizens Rights Movement); Haim Oron (Mapam); Amnon Rubinstein (Shinui); Ran Cohen (CRM); Dedi Zucker (CRM); Anat Maor (Mapam); Avraham Poraz (Shinui); Naomi Hazan (CRM); Walid Sadek (Mapam); Benny Temkin (CRM); Zehava Galon (CRM); and Hanan Erez (Mapam).

A tired but satisfied Sarid, who had spent all Sunday night at Ramat Eyal where the ballots were counted, held a press conference to present the new list less than an hour after the final results were in.

He noted that both women in the first 10, Anat Maor and Naomi Hazan, did not have to be upgraded, according to Meretz's affirmative action requirements, but won the No. 6 and No. 8 slots on their own. Walid Sadek was the only one who was upgraded, to ensure an Arab candidate in the top 10.

Sarid dismissed the pessimistic surveys predicting a 50% drop in Meretz's representation in the next Knesset, insisting Meretz will preserve its present 12 seats.

"I don't know why everyone is obsessed by the surveys, particularly the worst ones. I haven't heard anyone quote the surveys giving us seven or eight mandates," he said.

Sarid said the main issue is not who will be prime minister, but what kind of government Prime Minister Shimon Peres finds himself in half an hour after he is elected.

"There is a clear-cut choice between Peres in a coalition with the National Religious Party, the haredi parties and Tsomet's Rafael Eitan, probably followed by David Levy, and Peres and Meretz," he said.

Anyone who voted for Meretz in 1992 and does not want the peace process to end will realize that he or she has no choice but to vote for Meretz again, Sarid said.

Sarid explained Meretz's drop in the polls as deriving first from the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, noting that "it's only natural and human, after a trauma like that, that many would gather under the wings of the larger party, which was headed by Rabin."

Moreover, he continued, the direct election of the prime minister, in force for the first time this election, focuses attention on the two candidates, Peres and Binyamin Netanyahu, "and people tend to identify the leader with the party. People haven't yet realized they can vote for Peres for prime minister, and for Meretz as a party. We can overcome that with an information campaign."

Sarid added that Meretz had achieved more of its platform, in peace and human rights issues, women's rights, fighting religious coercion, and other areas, than any other party.

"It is unthinkable that a party which fulfilled so many of its commitments to its voters should be punished for it, rather than rewarded," he said.

Asked about the lack of new faces in Meretz's top 10, Sarid retorted that there are two new candidates in Nos. 11 and 12, "which we consider realistic. If you and the surveys don't, that's your problem."

Doing the sensible thing, Page 2

## EU to reopen 'mad cow' debate

**LONDON (Reuters)** - British Prime Minister John Major yesterday convinced European Commission chief Jacques Santer to reconvene a meeting of officials which had earlier recommended the European Union ban all exports of British beef.

A spokesman said an angry Major had told Santer he wanted to send top experts to Brussels to explain why British beef was safe to eat despite a scare over links between "mad cow" disease and its fatal human equivalent. Santer later called back and agreed to reconvene the meeting, the spokesman said.

The two men agreed that the meeting - which voted 14-1 to slap an immediate ban on all British beef exports - would reconvene today.

Full report, Page 5

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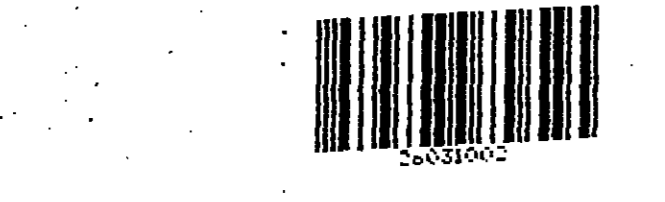
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# NRP targets secular votes

HERB KEINON

THE National Religious Party has placed a secular activist on its central campaign staff, an expression of its stepped up attempts to attract secular voters.

Boaz Dromi, of Kiryat Tivon, a former member of Tsomet's central committee, has been made responsible for drawing up literature aimed at what he termed "secular ideologues" who are potential NRP voters.

"For many people the Likud is too large and non-ideological," Dromi said. "The NRP is an ideological party, and has deeds to match its declarations. You don't have to be religious to respect Baer Akiva, the settlements, and the values of the NRP education."

Dromi said that three of the eight Knesset seats Tsomet won in the last election could conceivably go to the NRP.

NRP spokesman Yitzhak Rath said party strategists believe there is a real possibility of gaining at least one Knesset seat from secular voters who identify with the NRP's values.

A group of some 100 secular activists met in Tel Aviv recently

to chart strategy on how to reach out to this group of potential voters.

"This is a population for whom Jewish identity and Eretz Yisrael are important," Rath said, "and which is worried about what kind of Jewish values will be given to their children."

Among the leaders of this secular group are a number of professors affiliated with the right-wing Professors for a Strong Israel.

An internal survey being reviewed by the NRP's strategy committee indicates that the Likud will win at least six more seats and has the potential of gaining another three. Of those respondents who said they are deliberating between voting for the NRP or another party, 65 percent said the choice is between the NRP and Likud, 6% said the NRP or Labor, and 4% the NRP or Mokedet.

The poll also indicated that 82% of those who said they were definitely going to vote for the NRP also said they were going to vote for Binyamin Netanyahu for

prime minister, while only 4% said they will vote for Shimon Peres.

One of the main themes of the NRP campaign, said Rath, will be to convince the electorate that it is not necessary to vote for both Netanyahu and the Likud. Despite internal polls showing that 30% of NRP supporters do not think the party should publicly support a candidate for prime minister, Rath said the NRP will publicly endorse Netanyahu.

The party is soon to begin a large-scale campaign, "face to face," in which some 1,400 volunteers will visit the homes of 300,000-400,000 voters to canvass on behalf of the party. The names have been drawn from the NRP's membership list, from the Ha-pool Mizrahi list, and from various synagogues and religious school lists across the country.

"I don't care what three million people in the country think about the NRP," said Rath. "What I want to do is talk to those who are already in our camp." He said 400,000 voters represents more than 12 Knesset seats.



Meretz MKs (from left) Amnon Rubinstein, Yossi Sarid, and Haim Oron announce the Meretz list of Knesset candidates at a press conference yesterday. (Gideon Markovitz)

# Meretz voters did the sensible thing

ANALYSIS

SARAH HONIG

IN comparison with the two large parties, Meretz is a small, placid pond.

Thus its primaries this week were not a great, bloody battle. The Meretz candidates at no point had to endure anything approaching the grueling ordeal of their Labor and Likud counterparts.

In fact, Meretz members on Sunday did not really elect candidates, but voted to rank previously-chosen candidates selected in the three even smaller components that make up the party.

Not only were there no surprises, but the order in which the names appear on the list is just what the party leadership could have wished for, and what the intrinsic Meretz logic called for.

No newcomer took a safe slot from an incumbent. The only incumbents who are not back on the list are Shulamit Aloni and Yair Tzaban, who voluntarily retired. The newcomers are in the 11th and 12th slots, not

considered realistic this year, although Meretz currently holds 12 seats.

Even MKs Naomi Chazan (8th), Walid Sadek (9th), and Benny Temkin (10th) are far from safe bets. Among those who are likely to feature in the 14th Knesset, there are no surprises. The first three are the leaders of the Citizens Rights Movement (Yossi Sarid), Mapam (Haim Oron), and Shinui (Amnon Rubinstein). The next two slots were allocated to the CRM and the only question was who would come in first - Ran Cohen or Dedi Zucker. Cohen got 6,000 more votes.

In the Mapam slot which follows, MK Anat Maor made it, which could make her the only woman in the next Meretz Knesset contingent.

MK Avraham Poraz of Shinui was a natural for the second Shinui slot (the seventh on the

Meretz list). Poraz is the second Shinui man on the Meretz list today, too.

The Meretz electorate did the sensible thing from the Meretz establishment's point of view. Meretz's only problem is that it is highly unlikely to repeat its success of four years ago, which imperils many of the current MKs.

The hope in the party is that Labor will try so hard to win the floating vote that it will rerun its hawkish campaign of 1992 to lure Likud-leaning voters, allowing Meretz to highlight the distinctions between the parties and bite into Labor's ultra-dovish fringes.

The campaign tension is already apparent, with Sarid making carping comments about the expected Labor list - his real competitor - only minutes after announcing the make-up of the Meretz list.

Meretz is in difficult straits and it cannot waste a single day of campaigning, not even to rest up after the primaries, while the Labor votes are still being counted.

# Meimad opts out of elections

HERB KEINON

THE Meimad executive ended months of speculation, deliberation and negotiation late last night and decided not to run in the Knesset elections.

Meimad spokesman Yisrael Cohen said the executive voted overwhelmingly both against running as a separate list, and against running with another party.

In recent weeks there has been talk of a joint list with The Third Way, the National Religious

Party, and even Geshet. Cohen said the executive decided against this, because the movement would have had to compromise its beliefs. Cohen said Meimad, which registered as a political party earlier this year, will remain a non-parliamentarian political action group.

One Meimad official said the decision not to run was made af-

ter the executive realized the party would not get enough votes for one Knesset seat. The party failed to pass the electoral threshold in its only attempt in 1988.

Meimad head Rabbi Yehuda Amital said weeks ago that he was opposed to Meimad running separately, and favored some kind of merger with the NRP. Meimad has already called on its supporters to vote for Shimon Peres.

will both be in the cabinet."

Barak said he had no doubt that the "winning team we have chosen can beat the Likud. First of all, we have a candidate for prime minister who can defeat the Likud's."

The television polls provided the main show in the Fair Grounds hall, which was festooned with balloons. A giant poster of Labor's election slogan, "A strong Israel with Peres," covered the wall behind the stage.

As Peres arrived at 10:50 p.m., the hall, crowded with candidates, their families, and hundreds of journalists and photographers, broke into loud applause.

Peres refused to comment on the polls, saving his reaction for the actual results.

The Likud last night issued a statement saying the far left had taken over the Labor list.

Peres responded by calling their claims "old world terms that we thought we were done with."

Commenting on the reconciliation between Ramon and Barak, Peres said jokingly, "You can't trust those guys. They heard I wanted to invite them to a reconciliation meeting, and they initiated one themselves and solved all the problems before I could, leaving me with nothing to do."

Peres said the primary system still has many drawbacks and will have to be improved, after the elections. He noted, however, that it's still preferable to the days in which a small committee of party leaders determined the Knesset list.

## CLOSURE

(Continued from Page 1) Palestinian Police, and other Palestinian officers.

"The meeting was on the topic of terror and the fight against it. Gen. Haj Ismail got up and declared, and you could see it in his countenance, an all-out war against terror to give themselves security and peace," OC Judea and Samaria Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ofir said following the meeting.

The Palestinians sought an easing of the closure and a cessation of house demolitions, which it labeled collective punishment. So far, Palestinian security forces have rounded up some 900 suspected Hamas and Islamic Jihad members since the wave of suicide bombings.

"I declared before the PA and the officers of Judea and Samaria that the continuation of the war is a shared one. As long as the murderers are not behind bars and there is no tranquility, then things can't be the way they were," Ofir said. "I tend to believe that they are doing the best they are capable of."

## CORRECTION

The Jerusalem Symphony family concert will take place tomorrow at 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., and not as published in Friday's entertainment listings.

# Afternoon sun puts smile on Labor faces

MICHAL YUDELMAN

AT 3:30 p.m. yesterday, the sun came out from behind the clouds, bringing smiles to the faces of Labor leaders, who had feared that the stormy weather and heavy rains would deter many from venturing out to the polling booths.

The voting turnout, a thin trickle until then, picked up with the improved weather and reached close to 50% by the early evening.

At 7 p.m., two hours before poll closing time, excitement increased at Labor's primaries headquarters on Rehov Hayarkon 110, and senior party officials here expressed hope that the turnout would reach 70% by 9 p.m.

"It didn't even occur to me not to vote, no matter what the weather would be," said Shosh Elkana, 43, at the polling station on Rehov Zichron Ya'acov, near the Tel Aviv Municipality.

"Rabin's murder made me feel I must be more involved. That's why I registered as a party member and so did all my family. We were always silent supporters until now. But once we registered, not even the greatest storm could keep us away from the polling booths," she said.

The polling station at Labor's Tel Aviv branch, on Bellinson Street, was humming with activi-

ty. Dozens of cheerful activists at the entrance swooped down on every voter with cards and pictures bearing the names and portraits of various candidates, and one even gave out cigarettes to anyone who was interested.

"So what's a little rain," one elderly woman who came to cast her ballot said, smiling. "One has to do one's democratic duty, it's our right," she added.

The members of the polling station carefully checked each voter's identity, found his or her name on the list, then patiently explained the voting procedures on the complicated two-sided ballot sheet, in English or other languages when necessary.

They even provided the required black pen for filling in the X's on the forms, which had earned the nickname "Labor's Lotto," and referred each person to the polling booths.

"Whew," one leading Labor activist said when the sudden sunshine lit up the gloomy gray streets outside. "Just when people are finishing the day's work. Now they can come to vote more easily. This is a very good sign."

Justice Minister David Libai dropped in "just to thank the members of the ballot committee and all the volunteers for their dedicated work."

# Ramon and Barak voted for each other

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

MICHAL YUDELMAN

INTERIOR Minister Haim Ramon and Foreign Minister Ehud Barak continued demonstrating their mutual support and unity during Labor's primaries yesterday.

Ramon, one of the first to cast his ballot at Ramat Hasharon's labor council branch yesterday morning, arrived in the pouring rain and was greeted warmly by local activists and council workers.

He swiftly entered the polling booth, after receiving instructions on how to fill out the ballot dubbed "Labor's Toto form" and emerged with a surprise for the waiting journalists: He had voted for Ehud Barak, he said.

Barak arrived at the polling station near his home at Kochav Yair, after an exhausting tour of voting centers in Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Baka al-Gharbiya.

"I've never taken place in elections before, and will consider any slot among the first five an achievement," he said.

Asked if he knew whom to vote for, he said "of course, all the good people." Is Ramon among them? "Certainly," said Barak. "I didn't hesitate for a moment. He is an inseparable part of the party's leadership."

staff chairman, toured party branches in the central region, considered his home court. Everywhere he went, he was received with warmth and cheers by activists, who hastened to slap a sticker bearing the number 10 - Ben-Eliezer's number on the voting form - to their chests.

Fuad was unfazed by the possibility that no candidate of Sephardi origin would be placed among Labor's top 10. "The vote is personal, not on an ethnic basis. I have no doubt that those who are worthy will be elected. What the voter sees is the issue of the state's security and where the state is going. What's at stake is a better future for Israel in the next few years."

Leah Rabin cast her ballot at the poll booth near her home at Ramat Aviv in the afternoon. She said she was confident her husband would have been proud of the leadership team which Labor is presenting in the elections.

Asked about the doubts concerning the peace process following the terrorist attacks, she said "there is no moral weakening. On the contrary. Bereaved parents are expressing their increased conviction and support in the peace process. This indicates an incredibly strong moral and social fiber."

# Arab expert: Islamic decision to campaign is a smart move

DAVID RUDGE

THE decision by the Islamic Movement to participate in the elections and try to unify the political forces of the Arab sector was a smart move, according to Dr. Elie Rekhess, director of the program on Arab politics in Israel at Tel Aviv University.

By doing so, the movement hopes to prevent as many as 140,000 Arab votes from being wasted because of fragmentation. A united bloc stands to garner even more support and win five to seven Knesset seats.

The move also comes at what many observers see as a sensitive, if not crucial, period in the history of the state, the Palestinian people, and the Middle East.

"At present, the Arab vote is fragmented and factionalized and, theoretically, there's a possi-

bility that none of the competing forces would pass the threshold, which is going to be as high as 45,000 votes, almost the equivalent of two Knesset seats," said Rekhess.

"The big fear is that the potential power of the Arab electorate would be wasted if the voting is split between different parties. All these votes could end up going down the drain, without any party winning any Knesset seats."

Rekhess, stressed that the Islamic Movement stands to gain tremendous prestige if it succeeds in its aim of forging a united list which wins five to seven seats.

"I think the moderate faction of the Islamic Movement has assessed that the right conditions have been created for them to join in," he said.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Mitzna threatened at polls

Haifa police are searching for a Kiryat Ata resident who is suspected of threatening Haifa Mayor Amram Mitzna during a visit to a Labor Party polling station in the suburb yesterday. The man cursed Mitzna and said, "We have to kill you people."

In Dalit al-Carmel, the chairman of the polling station was attacked. The assailant was detained, police said.

### GSS chief makes first appointment

AMI Ayalon, the new head of the General Security Service, made his first internal appointment yesterday since taking over the GSS, appointing a permanent head of the protection branch. The previous head of the branch had resigned following the assassination of the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

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and extend sympathy to  
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In deep sorrow we mourn the passing of  
**RIEVE LEVENSON**  
The funeral took place yesterday in Ra'anana  
Pat & Morrie Basker  
Children and Grandchildren

مكتباتنا الأصل

# IDF mechanic involved in helicopter cable accident won't be charged

ATTORNEY-GENERAL Michael Ben-Yair yesterday told the families of two soldiers killed in a helicopter cable accident that he would not file criminal charges against the helicopter's mechanic because of insufficient evidence.

The Tzuriano and Rosenberg families expressed anger, and their lawyer, Elad Shraga, said that Ben-Yair should have ordered police to launch an investigation into suspicions of obstruction of justice, after the establishment of a second air force inquiry commission set up to investigate the accident, which exonerated all involved.

Shraga called the decision "strange," adding it stained the position of attorney-general. "If the attorney-general thought that something wrong was done, he should have ordered an investigation into allegations of obstruction of justice," he said.

He added the families would ask for another hearing of their High Court petition against the attorney-general, demanding that those responsible be brought to justice, since while the court had rejected their

petition regarding trying air force officers, the matter of the mechanic was still pending, and at the time, the attorney-general had said he thought the mechanic should be brought up on charges.

Gil Tzuriano and Assaf Rosenberg, members of the air force rescue squad, were killed in August 1995 when the cable pulling them up to their helicopter during an exercise tore. A check of the cable showed that it had torn because it had been improperly rolled up. Based on these findings by the first air force commission of inquiry, the attorney-general had announced he would order the mechanic tried for causing the soldiers' deaths by negligence.

After his announcement and after the High Court Justice rejected the families' petition to force the attorney-general to try several air force officers and soldiers, including the OC air force and the captain of the aircraft, a second commission of inquiry was established which exonerated all those involved including the mechanic. Ben-Yair accepted the commission's findings.

## Rains bring relief to Kinneret

DAVID RUDGE

THE water level in Lake Kinneret has risen a further three centimeters as a result of the recent torrential rains.

Experts said they expect the level to continue rising gradually from the strong flow from the Jordan River and other streams into the lake.

Nevertheless, they stressed that the prospect of the Kinneret being at its maximum point by the beginning of summer were very slim.

The inflow has now raised the level in the lake to just under 1.20 meters below the maximum mark, which is a far better state than had been expected midway through the winter, but still not as good as previous years.

The wintry weather continued yesterday, with heavy rain and hail storms at times and snow blocking the access to the Mt. Hermon ski site for the second day running.

The heavy rain elsewhere caused flooding on many roads. The meteorological service reported that large quantities of rain fell in many parts, especially Haifa, Jerusalem, the Tel Aviv region and the Galilee.

Snow was still likely on northern peaks last night, with the wintry weather continuing throughout today and gradually dying out tomorrow. The weather on Thursday is expected to be more spring-like and hotter and drier than normal.

## Population hits 5.6 million

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE country's population on November 4, 1995 was 5.6 million according to preliminary data from the recent census, released yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

The bureau reported that the greatest increase since the previous census, in June 1983, was 57 percent - logged in the South. Within that area, the population of the Ashdod region was up 65%, as that of the city of Ashdod almost doubled.

The Tel Aviv and Haifa regions, on the other hand, were up 16% and 30% respectively, reflecting the ongoing national goal of increasing the population of outlying areas.

The population of several communities was up 80% or more among them Or Akiva (89%), Ashdod (95%), Beit Shemesh (92%), Yavne (102%), Karmiel (121%), Mevasseret Zion (110%), Nesher (95%), Netivot (87%), Rahat (145%), and Sderot (87%).

There was a marked increase in the number of community settlements - small villages with restricted memberships - from 71 to 111, and their population was up more than 600%, from 8,000 to 51,000. The Jewish population of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza was also up more than 600%, from 24,000 to 134,000.

## El Al plane struck by lightning

HAIM SHAPIRO

AN El Al plane en route to the Far East with 270 passengers was forced to turn back yesterday after it was struck by lightning over Jerusalem.

The Boeing 747-200 had taken off at 7:20 a.m. for New Delhi and Bangkok and was only 15 minutes in the air, when lightning struck the antenna on the right wing. The jolt burned a hole in the fiberglass shield on the nose of the aircraft, hampering the weather radar system, according to El Al spokesman Nachman Kleiman.

He said the passengers felt the jolt and experienced the loss of

electric current for about 30 seconds, but that no one was hurt. Pilot Menachem Nehushtan told the passengers the plane would have to return to Ben-Gurion Airport because of possible damage to the radar system.

After 30 minutes in the air, during which the plane dumped fuel, it landed without incident at Ben-Gurion. At 1:30 p.m. it took off again, this time flying straight to Bangkok to make up for lost time. The 120 New Delhi-bound passengers were accommodated in a hotel and were due to leave on another El Al flight last night.



Ramat Gan resident Moshe Shelsek celebrates his 100th birthday yesterday.

(Israel Sun/Alan Ossensoliver)

## Police: Arrests fail to deter wiretappers

ILLEGAL wiretapping is still being conducted by private investigators, sometimes with the help of Bezeq technicians, according to a senior police source.

"The bugging is continuing - the only thing that has changed is the price, which has gone sky-high," the source said.

He said the arrests during of scores of private investigators for wiretapping over the past two years has not deterred others from tapping the phones and cellular phones of companies and wayward wives or husbands.

"Bezeq technicians randomly discover about 30 transmitters a month in phone exchange boxes from Netanya to Ashdod," he said.

Technicians are obliged to report each bug to their supervisor, who must inform the compa-

ny's security officer. Technically, the security officer is obliged to inform police, who do not have sufficient manpower to trace every company executive or jealous husband who may have ordered the tap. Often technicians do not know which bugs are connected to which phone line and simply remove the transmitters. However, if a public figure is being tapped, the police must take action, said the source.

Equipment is also changing, with private investigators importing bugging and anti-bugging devices from Holland, Australia, Britain, Italy, and the US.

The source also said he is convinced some Bezeq technicians are still helping locate

phone lines to be bugged. "Whereas previously a crooked technician may have taken \$300 for an initial installment, now he may request \$1,000," he said.

Bezeq spokesman Ronni Mandelbaum said that technicians finding transmitters must report to their supervisor, who informs the area security officer. "Any complaint is examined," he said.

Bezeq's techniques to foil would-be tappers have also become more sophisticated, and any employee who tries to access the company computer may be traced. Other methods include blocking the last three digits of a phone number or exchange line. Only two Bezeq employees have been arrested and charged in connection with wiretapping.

## Private investigator's trial for bugging starts tomorrow

RAINE MARCUS

THE trial of private investigator Ze'ev Laufer, 51, accused of 13 counts of wiretapping in the media wiretapping affair, is due to open on Thursday in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court.

However, if other contractors' trials are anything to go by, the hearing may be postponed to allow Laufer to receive hundreds of tapes and other prosecution evidence.

Laufer's indictment - another in a series of indictments against other private investigators and newspaper editors - results from evidence given to police by state witness and former private investigator Ya'acov Tsur.

Laufer was arrested last April together with Ma'ariv publisher Ofer Nimrodi, his right-hand man David Romen, lawyer Motti Katz, investigators Micha Rotem, Eli Gershoni, Rafi Friedan (Tsur's former partner) and others after police gathered sufficient evidence from Tsur. Laufer was the only one arrested who refused to even talk to his investigators, merely confirming his name and other basic details.

According to evidence given to police by Tsur, Laufer was allegedly employed by Yediot Aharonot, via other intermediaries, who allegedly commissioned him to carry out various services, including wiretapping. Evidence also shows that Laufer was hired by businessmen to bug rivals' phones, faxes and cellular phones. According to the indictment, Friedan and Tsur were hired by Laufer to carry out the wiretapping.

One charge relates to bugging the phone of former Ma'ariv marketing manager Ya'acov Kedmi. Laufer hired Friedan and Tsur to tap Kedmi's phone, but the pair told Ofer Nimrodi and David Romen, who immediately hired another pair of investigators and a

Bezeq employee to check Kedmi's phone. The bug was found and left in place for a while, to confuse whoever ordered the bugging.

In his evidence, Tsur says Yediot was behind the bugging of Kedmi. It is not known who at the daily was allegedly responsible for the bugging. A long legal battle is currently underway in Tel Aviv District Court between publisher and chief editor Arnon Mozes and Ze'ev Mozes over shares at the paper.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### 'Militants plan to attack PA officials'

Islamic militants are plotting to attack Palestinian officials and overthrow Yasser Arafat's government, the Palestinian attorney-general said yesterday.

Militant leaders have issued a religious decree, or fatwa, permitting the killing of Palestinian officials for their dealings with Israel, said Attorney-General Khaled Kidreh.

"These people have made the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian people into targets for their terror attacks," Kidreh told The Associated Press.

Kidreh said Palestinian investigators have seized documents revealing plans to topple Arafat, but would not elaborate. AP

#### Kollek named president of Israel Museum

Former Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek was named president of the Israel Museum at the last meeting of the museum's board of directors, the museum announced yesterday. MK Dan Meridor was named vice-chairman of the board, as was Dov Gottesman. Jerusalem Post Staff

#### IDF grants entry permit to Palestinian father

The IDF said yesterday it would grant an entry permit to a Palestinian resident of Saffa, near Ramallah, to visit his sick daughter, after the Association of Civil Rights in Israel petitioned the High Court of Justice.

ACRI demanded that the IDF give the permit to the Palestinian, whose nine-year-old daughter is in critical condition at the Alyn Hospital in Jerusalem. The girl's doctors believe she will die within a few days, the petition said, and only the mother was given an entry permit. Jerusalem Post Staff

#### Flood simulation near Eilat today

A flood will be simulated by Hebrew University geographers in a wadi two kilometers west of Eilat today. The aim of the experiment is to observe the special characteristics of a desert flood, which in its natural form could cause serious physical and environmental damage to the town.

The Israel Electric Corporation (IEC) and the Jewish National Fund (JNF) are cooperating in the simulation with Prof. Asher Schick of the HU's geography department. According to Schick, "there is no available technology that could save Eilat from a powerful flood, a type that occurs once in 50 to 100 years." Judy Siegel

#### Peres meets with Belzer rebbe

Prime Minister Shimon Peres met Sunday evening with Belzer Rebbe Yisachar Dov Rokeach, and updated him on the peace process. Peres reportedly agreed to the rebbe's calls for greater efforts to strengthen Jewish identity, saying that "we need to teach Diaspora youth Hebrew, and Israeli youth Yiddishkeit."

Peres told Rokeach that his government will not divide Jerusalem. The Belzer rebbe has supported the government's peace moves. ifm

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NEWS IN BRIEF

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# Zulus defiant over weapons ban

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) - The South African government would have to lock up the entire Zulu nation if they wanted to enforce a ban on dangerous weapons, the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party said yesterday.

Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi imposed a ban on the carrying of dangerous weapons in public in 74 magisterial districts in a bid to stem political and criminal violence.

But thousands of members of Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha defied the ban at a week-end political rally in the volatile Zulu heartland of KwaZulu-Natal, openly carrying their so-called traditional weapons - spears, fighting sticks and shields.

Inkatha spokesman Ed Tillet told Reuters the African National Congress-led national government was unrealistic if it thought it could ban the carrying of traditional weapons.

"It is part of Zulu identity. It is a way in which Zulu males define their whole sense of being."

"So to expect them to abandon those weapons or to surrender those weapons is totally unrealistic and if the minister intends imposing these measures to the letter of the law then I am afraid to say that he is going to have to lock up an entire nation."

The ban was imposed a day after 11 people, including seven women, a baby and three men, were massacred by gunmen armed with assault rifles and shotguns, in fresh bloodletting in a rural district of KwaZulu-Natal.

South Africa's nine million Zulus have been split along political lines between the ANC, which rules at national level and Inkatha, which holds power in KwaZulu-Natal. More than 14,000 people have been killed since feuding began in the mid-1980s.

President Nelson Mandela said last week he wanted to end the killings in the province.

"I am determined to put an end to this senseless carnage. In doing so, I will employ all the power and authority vested in me by the law," Mandela said in a message marking South Africa's Human Rights Day last Thursday.

Tillet said Buthelezi has warned that the ban would only increase tension in KwaZulu-Natal, one of two provinces not controlled by the ANC after South Africa's all-race elections in 1994.

"Our president (Buthelezi) is correct in saying that these measures simply provoke more tension rather than to pour balm on troubled waters," Tillet said.

"Given the number of people at political gatherings I think it is totally impractical to even expect it and I don't think they (police) would even attempt it because they would realize it is extremely provocative."



A fire burros near Indian police gathered to repel demonstrators in Srinagar yesterday after nine rebel militants were killed by police. (Reuters)

# India sets deadline in Kashmir shrine siege

SRINAGAR (Reuters) - Indian authorities yesterday gave armed separatists holed up in Kashmir's holiest shrine two days to surrender or face stiff punishment.

The government of Jammu and Kashmir released a statement in the summer capital Srinagar saying anyone desecrating a religious place after tomorrow "will not be shown any leniency".

Police said more than two dozen guerrillas from the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), many of them armed, were hiding in the Hazratbal shrine after at least 11 people were killed on Sunday in a gunbattle outside the building.

The government statement called on all militants to surrender tomorrow to the nearest police station or security force post, and turn over arms and ammunition. Officials said the statement was aimed at the guerrillas in Hazratbal.

"After this date any person indulging in militant activities, harboring militants or possessing unauthorized weapons will be dealt (with) severely under law," it said. "Any person attempting to misuse or desecrate any religious place will not be shown any leniency."

In a separate statement, the government of mostly Hindu India's only Muslim majority state, which has seen six years of insurgency, said it had urged the militants to come out of the shrine and allow eight bodies to be brought out for burial.

But the All Party Hurriyat (freedom) Conference, a 30-party grouping of Kashmiri separatists, said relatives were not being allowed to take the bodies out of the shrine.

The Home Ministry said police captured some ammunition and communications equipment belonging to the militants from one of the rooms "in the premises of the Hazratbal shrine".

"Indian forces have splattered the main shrine with human blood by the use of excessive force and brutality," Hurriyat said in a statement released in New Delhi.

The Indian Home Ministry said in a statement that the state government was taking steps to clear the shrine immediately, and paramilitary reinforcements had been sent to the area.

The authorities' decision to set a deadline one day after armed militants entered the shrine appeared to contrast with a more

tractable stance they adopted in late 1993 when militants occupied the shrine for more than a month.

At that time troops threw a cordon around the Hazratbal, saying they were acting to foil a plot to steal a relic said to be a hair of the beard of the Muslim Prophet Mohammed.

But the government opted to wait out the crisis, which ended peacefully when the militants surrendered after 32 days.

In the current standoff, there are several crucial differences from 1993. The JKLF has split, with a splinter faction controlling the shrine area, and several of the front's leaders have been killed.

Perhaps more significantly, general elections start on April 27 and end with voting in Kashmir valley's three parliamentary seats on May 21.

Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao has been keen to hold the first polls in Kashmir since the separatist revolt erupted, and may want to avoid a standoff which could harm his Congress party's fortunes.

The JKLF said crack police started the gunbattle by breaking into a meeting of separatists in an office next to the shrine.

# Queen's first visit to Poland

WARSAW (AP) - A crowd of 1,000 people broke into loud cheers yesterday as Queen Elizabeth II arrived at the Presidential Palace in a silver Rolls Royce during the first visit to Poland by a British monarch.

The queen, along with her husband Prince Philip, is the guest of President Aleksander Kwasniewski and is scheduled to meet political leaders and ordinary citizens, and visit historic sites in Warsaw and Krakow during the three-day trip.

During a nationally televised welcoming ceremony in the palace courtyard, the queen, dressed in a pink coat and a black-and-green hat, reviewed a military honor guard and greeted government and parliamentary leaders.

In the Palace, the queen met with Kwasniewski and his wife Jolanta, and they were shown conversing in English on state television.

The queen was expected to stress the importance of strong Polish-British ties during a speech to a joint session of Parliament today.

Queen Elizabeth is repaying a 1991 visit to Britain by former President Lech Walesa, the Solidarity hero who helped topple Poland's Communist regime but lost the presidential election to ex-communist Kwasniewski last fall.

Walesa is to have tea with the queen during a private meeting this afternoon, after turning down a royal lunch invitation because Kwasniewski was on the guest list.

The royals are staying at the 19th century Belvedere Palace, which has been spruced up for the visit.

Following complaints from the Jewish community in Britain about the omission from the royal itinerary of the former Nazi death camp Auschwitz, the Buckingham Palace made last-minute arrange-

ments to include a stop at a wartime Jewish memorial in Warsaw.

The queen is to commemorate the suffering of Polish Jews in World War II by laying a wreath yesterday afternoon at Umschlagplatz, the former starting point for Nazi transports of Jews to Treblinka death camp.

The royal couple will visit the southern city of Krakow on Wednesday, and Prince Philip was to meet with Jewish community representatives and visit the old Jewish district of Kazimierz.

Yesterday, after the meeting with Kwasniewski, the queen laid a wreath of red poppies at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Under sunny skies, Warsaw's main streets looked cleaned from winter dirt and were decorated with Polish and British flags. Thousands of Poles of all ages lined the downtown streets.

"The queen's visit is a great attraction and pride for Poland," said Beata Swiatek, a 22-year-old geography student watching the royals from a spot across the street from the Presidential Palace.

Danuta Bernat, a 69-year-old retired economist said she walked 40 minutes from her home in the southern district of Mokotow to catch a glimpse of the queen.

"I admire her dignified stance despite family problems," Bernat said.

Britain's Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind, accompanying the queen on the visit, is to discuss Poland's aspirations to join the European Union and NATO with his Polish counterpart, Dariusz Rosati, and the president.

This morning, the queen is to meet Polish youth at Warsaw's Stefan Batory high school and in the evening, the royals plan attend a ballet at the Grand Theater. Tomorrow the royals fly to the Czech Republic.

# Achille Lauro convict was going to Africa before arrest

MADRID (Reuters) - The Palestinian convicted of the 1985 Achille Lauro hijacking was believed to be on his way to North Africa when he was arrested in southern Spain on Friday, Spanish police said yesterday.

"We think he was about to cross to the north of Africa," Damaso Gonzalez, head of the paramilitary Civil Guard's information service, said.

Magied al-Molqi, who was serving a 30-year sentence for the hijacking of the Italian cruise liner, was seized in the seaside town of Estepona, near the Strait of Gibraltar, which separates Spain from Morocco. Italian police sources gave no further details of the extradition proceedings against al-Molqi which Italy has launched.

Molqi was serving a 30-year sentence after being held primarily responsible during his trial in Italy for the murder of wheelchair-bound Leon Klinghoffer.

# Sudan negotiating return of hijacked plane

KHARTOUM (AP) - Sudan wants the return of an airliner hijacked to neighboring Eritrea with its 49 passengers and crew.

The airliner was en route from the Sudanese capital of Khartoum to Port Sudan on Sunday when the pilot was forced to divert to the Eritrean capital, Asmara. On surrendering there, the two hijackers

reportedly said they were allied to Sudanese opposition parties. The passengers and crew were freed, and no one was hurt.

Sudan's Civil Aviation Authority said yesterday it is negotiating the return of the A720 Airbus from Eritrea. Sudan and Eritrea are at odds over Asmara's charges that Sudan is supporting Islamic rebels

# Hillary, daughter visit US troops in Bosnia

TUZLA (AP) - Venturing to the front lines of the Bosnia peacekeeping mission, Hillary Rodham Clinton greeted US troops yesterday and heard horror stories about the region's devastating civil war.

"Sarajevo is the largest graveyard in the world," Katarina Mandic, a member of the Federation Constitutional Court, told her at a meeting of federation leaders.

Mrs. Clinton stared intently at Mandic, listening without speaking a word. "On every corner we find dead bodies. Dead animals," the woman continued. "Blood and destruction everywhere."

Earlier, Mrs. Clinton paid a courtesy call to acting Bosnian President Ejjup Ganic.

The meetings took place before Mrs. Clinton was scheduled to helicopter to posts outside the safe con-

fines of the US base in Tuzla. Bad weather restricted President Clinton to the base during his January visit.

Afterward, she was addressing US soldiers at a show featuring singer Sheryl Crow and comedian Sinbad. The American entertainers flew to Bosnia with Mrs. Clinton aboard a C-17 cargo plane laden with gifts and mail for the soldiers, some of whom she met upon her arrival.

Mrs. Clinton would be the first presidential spouse since Eleanor Roosevelt to formally address troops in a potentially hostile area, although not the first to visit a military hot spot.

During the Vietnam War in 1969, for instance, Pat Nixon visited patients at a US field hospital north of Saigon. And in 1990, Barbara

Bush and President Bush spent Thanksgiving with US troops massed in Saudi Arabia to oust Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

She flew to Bosnia with her teenage daughter, Chelsea. Mrs. Clinton chatted with journalists and crewmen during the 90-minute flight, wandering around the spacious plane in a black pantsuit - a contrast to the blue jeans and other road-ready clothes worn by most everybody else on the plane.

The first lady spent time in the cockpit with pilot Cheryl Beinke, one of just four female C-17 pilots in the US Air Force.

Opening an eight-day European trip, Mrs. Clinton visited an army base in Baumholder, Germany, on Sunday to thank US troops for staying "so ready, so focused" in their risky peacekeeping mission.

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 ...to Poland

## Lee vows better China ties

TAIPEI (AP) - With China reportedly signaling willingness for talks, President Lee Teng-hui celebrated his landslide election victory by promising to work on improving relations with Beijing. A Taiwanese official said yesterday that China may hold another round of war games, but keep them inland and therefore less threatening to Taiwan than the naval exercises it has conducted in waters facing the island. China, after weeks of attempts to intimidate Taiwan in the run-up to its historic direct presidential election, said it would negotiate if Taiwan gave up seeking a separate status for itself. "We believe the door to negotiations is still open," China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang said Sunday. "The key is for the Taiwan authorities to give up their pursuit of two Chinas or one China and one Taiwan." If Taiwan's leaders accept reunification, "relations could be eased and we could move on to discuss other things," Shen said in an interview with the London-based Worldwide Television News, monitored in Beijing. In a non-committal reaction yesterday, the Taiwan government's chief China-watcher said the issue needed study. "This still depends on the interaction of both sides. We need a period of observation," Chang King-yu, head of the Mainland Affairs Council, told reporters. He called for a resumption of the low-level, semi-official talks that China froze last July in its

rage at Lee's foreign diplomacy. "We are about to enter the 21st century. Shall we continue with struggle and confrontation, or rather engage in cooperation for the long-term benefit of the Chinese people?" Chang said. Reunification of China and Taiwan "takes patience, sincerity and hard work," he said. So far, nothing has been said that represents a departure. Taiwan's president has given no sign he will temper his quest to raise Taiwan's diplomatic profile, and it is that campaign that China continues to view as creating "two Chinas." Shen's remarks may have been meant to signal to Taipei that with the election over, Beijing doesn't rule out talking to Lee, despite having vilified him for the past eight months as an independence-seeker bent on splitting China. The spokesman for US President Bill Clinton, Mike McCurry, said: "There's also been a general de-escalation in the tone of rhetoric on both sides of the strait and some encouraging signs that peaceful dialogue may be in the offing." "And the United States is encouraged by that development, having long called for such peaceful dialogue." But Taiwan's United Daily News quoted Beijing officials who handle Taiwan affairs as saying the tensions were Washington's fault for intervening in the dispute, and these tensions would not ease until relations with the US improved.

LONDON (Reuters) - The British government, facing worldwide alarm over "mad cow" disease, refused yesterday to order mass slaughter of cattle to restore plummeting confidence in its four billion pound (\$6 billion) beef industry. Health Secretary Stephen Dorrell said no extra safeguards were needed because the government's scientific advisers had concluded the risk from eating beef was extremely small despite evidence of a new human strain of the deadly disease. But Britain's stand failed to impress the European Union partners. The EU voted 14-1 in Brussels to slap an immediate ban on shipment of British beef to other EU countries. Agriculture Minister Douglas Hogg called the ban unjustified. "It does not reflect the proper assessment of the risks. We are going to have to consider what the next step should be," he told a news conference. The crisis could force its way on to the agenda of Friday's EU summit, which is being held in the Italian city of Turin to launch a conference on the future shape of the 15-nation bloc. Earlier, Hogg told parliament that scientists had considered advising the culling of older cattle to calm fears about people catching the human equivalent of BSE, but had concluded that controls announced last week were enough. "We have no other recommendations to make to this house at the moment," Hogg said. But the minister, who just 24 hours earlier had pointedly said that partial slaughter of Britain's 11 million herd was an option, said more radical steps might be required if market confidence did not recover. "I shall monitor it with scrupulous care and I shall not hesitate to come before the House with further measures if it is clear that they are justified by the circum-

stances," he said. "The government's advice has done nothing to answer the key consumer concerns about beef," said Sheila McKechnie, the association's director. Earlier Dorrell said children, mothers-to-be and the sick were at no greater risk of contracting CJD than healthy adults. He said a committee of scientists, who met over the weekend, had reconfirmed advice they gave last week and made only a few minor extra recommendations for dealing with beef.

## UK refuses to order mass slaughter of cattle despite EU ban



Farmers and meat wholesalers view a calf during an auction at the Gloucester Livestock Market. A spokesman for the auctioneers said that on an average Monday they would expect to have 400-500 cattle for sale but this week there was none. (Reuters)

## Kohl a big winner in state polls

BERLIN (AP) - The three parties in Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition government rejoiced yesterday over their surprisingly strong showing in local elections, but analysts said the results reflected more a voter displeasure with the alternatives than an endorsement of the status quo. "They didn't have anybody else to vote for," said Erwin Scheuch, a sociologist at Cologne University and sometime Kohl adviser. "The whole establishment looks terrible and doesn't deliver." With unemployment at a record 11 percent and fears of a looming recession in Germany, Kohl's conservative Christian Democrats (CDU) and his junior coalition partner, the Free Democrats (FDP), were considered vulnerable in three state elections Sunday. Yet both made significant gains, while the main opposition Social Democrats (SPD) fared poorly. Analysts blamed the party's new national leader, Oskar Lafontaine, for focusing the campaign on populist issues instead of the weak economy. Lafontaine had attacked Kohl for pushing the planned European currency union, which polls show many Germans fear, and called for limits on the influx of immigrants of German stock from the former Soviet Union. "That was a great big mistake" for a leftist party, said Peter Loesche, a political scientist at Goettingen University. "The SPD can't succeed politically with appeals to the gut or to prejudice. ... What the SPD needs is economic competence or at least the

image of economic competence ... to appear as the doctor at the bedside of capitalism who cares for the victims of capitalism." Lafontaine became national chairman of the Social Democrats four months ago, pledging to reverse the move toward the center attempted by his predecessor, Rudolf Scharping, who lost to Kohl in the 1994 federal election. He denied yesterday that he had hurt the party with appeals to populism, maintaining he was simply stating his long-known positions. "If the party can close ranks in the coming months, it will go forward," he said. Lafontaine, in Sunday's poll, only made the left's "long march into the government" even longer, said Juergen Trittin of the environmental Greens party, which has formed local coalitions with the SPD. The election was also seen as a do-or-die moment for the centrist Free Democrats, Germany's traditional kingmaker party that has been losing ground steadily. States play a key role in national politics because their representatives comprise the upper house, the Bundesrat, which can block legislation passed by the lower house, the Bundestag. Kohl's coalition has controlled the Bundestag for 14 years. The Social Democrats were weakened in Sunday's voting, but still make up a majority in the Bundestag. The third member of Kohl's coalition, Bavaria's Christian Social Union, added to their gains from two weeks ago by deposing two Social Democrat mayors in runoff elections.

## Yeltsin takes anti-NATO campaign to Norway

OSLO (Reuters) - Russian President Boris Yeltsin arrived in Norway at the start of a two-day visit yesterday, seeking reassurance from his western neighbor over NATO troop movements and expansion plans. "We will discuss why NATO is pushing to the east and with what aims. That is the main thing," he said on arriving in Oslo. "I very much hope that Norway and the Norwegian leadership will express their views on this. It (NATO) is after all a collective organization," he added. Yeltsin has publicly opposed NATO plans to extend membership to former Soviet bloc countries in eastern and central Europe. But he hinted yesterday that Moscow could accept ex-Warsaw Pact states joining the alliance's political committee if they stayed out of its military structure. "I would propose that they follow the French example, that is to join the committee but not NATO," he said. France until recently was on the fringes of NATO but in December said it would rejoin most alliance structures although it would remain outside the integrated military command. Norway has eased self-imposed Cold War restrictions on allied troop movements in its Arctic province of Finnmark, where NATO concluded maneuvers on Friday. Before leaving Moscow, Yeltsin said that he would raise the subject of such exercises in his talks today with Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland. "For example, not deploying NATO troops on Norwegian territory because it is the only NATO country which has a land frontier with Russia," he said. Yeltsin appeared to be in good health in Oslo, walking slowly but steadily. He joked that the trip to Norway was less arduous than traversing his own country - "It's not far, it's only two hours, it's not like crossing Russia

which is 12 hours." NATO will not be the only issue discussed during Yeltsin's 30-hour visit and he will not be the only one with worries. His Norwegian hosts will press for the safe disposal of nuclear waste from the Kola peninsula, home to Russia's Northern Fleet. Norway shares a 200-km Arctic frontier with Russia and fears the danger of massive nuclear contamination from spent nuclear-fuel containers removed from decommissioned submarines. The Norwegian government has said that it will express its concern at spy charges against Alexander Nikitin, a researcher with the Norwegian state-aided environmental group Bellona. Nikitin was arrested in St. Petersburg last month and charged with espionage after Bellona prepared a report detailing the piling up of nuclear waste by the military in Kola and the threat of radioactive leakage. He could face the death penalty if found guilty.

## South Pacific becomes nuclear-free

SUVA, Fiji (AP) - Half a century of nuclear weapon tests formally ended yesterday when the United States, Britain and France signed a treaty declaring the South Pacific a nuclear-free zone. The treaty covers 30 million sq. km. of ocean and tiny islands, some of which was used by the West for nuclear tests. The blasts ended in January after France conducted its final underground test beneath Mururoa Atoll following widespread international condemnation. The South Pacific Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty was adopted by the 16-member South Pacific Forum in 1985. It bans the testing, storage and deployment of nuclear weapons in the zone. However, it doesn't prohibit the transit of nuclear material or the passage of nuclear-powered and armed vessels. Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Julius Chan, who chairs the Forum, welcomed yesterday's signing but said island states might one day wind the treaty's scope. "Grudgingly we realize that what we are receiving today is all that we can pragmatically expect, for now. We are not being unreasonable, though, in feeling entitled to much more," Chan said. "We also believe that they (the nuclear powers) are responsible for cleaning up" the sites, Chan said. "We believe that they must accept responsibility for compensating people adversely affected." Chan also criticized the three Western powers for taking several years longer than Russia and China to sign the so-called Treaty of Rarotonga, named after the site of its adoption in the Cook Islands. Fiji premier Sitiveni Rabuka said the treaty is "of monumental significance" to Pacific islanders. Australian Prime Minister John Howard said the signing will be "a positive influence" on negotiations for a global nuclear test ban, which are expected to conclude in Geneva by the end of the year. However, some analysts were more skeptical. "It doesn't mean a great deal for nuclear disarmament," said Michael McKinley, a professor of politics at the Australian National University in Canberra.

## Comet draws rave reviews

STARGAZERS across the United States, some lugging telescopes as big as cannons, gathered under open skies in parks, fields and parking lots and glimpsed Hyakutake, the brightest comet to pass the Earth in 20 years. "It was so long, so clear and beautiful," Sharon Grant, one of

dozens who waited four chilly hours in the Florida Everglades before spotting Hyakutake's brilliant tail Sunday night. "Simply spectacular!" "It hits you right between the eyes," said Bill Borsheim, who viewed Hyakutake through a telescope in a Safeway parking lot in

Everett, Washington. The comet is visible to the naked eye and is just below the Big Dipper. Some have described it as looking like a fuzzy snowball or a candle in mist to those with binoculars - which is how Yuji Hyakutake, a Japanese amateur astronomer, discovered it in January. (AP)

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**Conference in Memory of Rabbi Dr. Joseph Tzvi Carlebach**

**Tolerance and the Relations Between Religion and Society**

**March 26-28, 1996 (6-8 Nissan 5756)**

<p>Tuesday, March 26, 1996 (Mintz Hall)</p> <p>10:00 Opening</p> <p>10:45 <b>First Session - Tolerance and Religion?</b>          Chairperson - Barbara Vogel, Hamburg          Opening: Yitzhak Carlebach, Heidelberg          Tolerance and Religion in Judaism          Mordechai Breuer, Bar-Ilan          Tolerance and Non-Violence - Roots of Tolerance in Christian Tradition          Fulbert Steffenski, Hamburg</p> <p>12:45 Lunch break</p> <p>14:00 <b>Second Session - Tolerance and Exclusiveness</b>          Chairperson, Dan Michman, Bar-Ilan          Yoael Carlebach, Ethical Principles in Theme and Action          Miriam Gillis-Carlebach, Bar-Ilan          Conflict and Tolerance - Roots of Jewish "Kulturkampf"          Shmuel Feiner, Bar-Ilan</p> <p>16:00 Coffee break</p> <p>16:30 Documentary film (Director: Hanno Bruehl)          The Carlebachs - a rabbinical family</p> <p>Wednesday, March 27, 1996 (Beck Hall)</p> <p>09:00 <b>Third Session - Antisemitism as Religious and Social Intolerance</b>          Chairperson - Wolfgang Gruenberg, Hamburg          Judaism and the "German Spirit" - in studies relating to Kant          Barbara Vogel, Hamburg          Christian Roots in Modern Antisemitism          Tzvi Baoharach, Bar-Ilan / New York</p> <p>Coffee break</p> <p>11:00 Antisemitism of Academic Historians          Arno Herzog, Hamburg          Tolerance as a Weapon of Democracy Against its Enemies:          The Weimar Republic between Destruction and Self-Destruction          Peter Reichel</p> <p>13:15 Lunch break</p>	<p>14:30 <b>Fourth Session - Education for Religious Tolerance in Modern Society</b>          Chairperson - Ingrid Lohmann, Hamburg          The Question of Tolerance in Modern Yeshiva Education in Israel          Mordechai Bar-Lev, Bar-Ilan          Religious Education in an Open Society          Michael Rosenak, Jerusalem          Respondent: Moshe Ahrend, Bar-Ilan          What is Tolerance? Pedagogical and Theological Aspects of Teacher Training          Uwe Gleesner, Hamburg          Minha</p> <p>Thursday, March 28, 1996 (Beck Hall)</p> <p>09:00 <b>Concluding Session - Tolerance in Educational Philosophy and Thought</b>          Chairperson - Michael Rosenak, Jerusalem          Education in Times of Crisis          Wolfgang Gruenberg, Hamburg          Judaism as Tolerance in the Philosophy of Emanuel Levinas          Ephraim Meir, Bar-Ilan</p> <p>Coffee Break</p> <p>11:00 Symposium - "The stranger that sojourneth with you shall be unto you as the home-born among you" (Lev. 19:34)  <b>Tolerance - Responsibility for the Future</b>          Moderator: Tzvi Baoharach, Bar-Ilan / New York          Concluding remarks and thanks:          Miriam Gillis-Carlebach, Bar-Ilan</p>
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## Justified criticism

INTERNAL Security Minister Moshe Shahal has a point: Police Cmdr. Alec Ron was out of line when he publicly criticized the government's anti-terrorist campaign. Officials in uniform should confine their opinions to closed consultations. But in Ron's defense it must be said that he is by no means the first uniformed official to commit this kind of indiscretion, and that the issue is so vital that he can be considered more a righteous whistle-blower than an irresponsible publicity seeker.

Ron's qualifications for making statements on the issue of terrorism are virtually unparalleled. Having served as Jerusalem Border Police chief, he was appointed commander of the Judea-Samaria police district 18 months ago, when it was first established. He is also a member of the special anti-terror committee, formed after the Dizengoff bombing and headed by General Security Service chief Ami Ayalon.

Essentially, his criticism echoes what non-professional Israelis must have been asking themselves ever since Prime Minister Shimon Peres "declared war" on Hamas. "Why have we waited until now to start blowing up houses?" Ron asked on Sunday. "And why are we waiting with the expulsions?"

Asserting that the war on terrorism must not wait for tragedies, he said what Israelis have known for a long time: the struggle against terror is a continuing, mostly preventive war, which must be pursued relentlessly.

Ron also finds it difficult to understand why Israel is oblivious to the Palestinian Authority's violations of the Oslo agreements. What bothers him most is that the Palestinian Police and other security services move freely in Area B, in which Israel is supposed to have overall security control, without coordinating their movements with Israel. Worse, the PA forces move in Area C, where the PA does not even have civilian authority, without Israel's permission.

Such disregard for the Oslo provisions is obviously aimed at establishing Palestinian military presence throughout the territories. If successful, the Palestinians will render the task of restoring Israeli control in these areas - if and when the pursuit of terrorists warrants it - both difficult and costly.

Shahal may decide that Ron, a candidate for inspector-general, deserves censure for his remarks. But it is far more important that the government take measures which will make these remarks seem superfluous.

## Kohl's nice, dull Germany

IT gets harder to visualize Germany without Helmut Kohl. The country has had some fine leaders in the long 50-year march out of the pits of Nazi horrors, but it is the present chancellor who has done more than any to develop the somewhat dull, avuncular image of a modern Germany preoccupied with mundane internal problems. The compliment may sound somewhat backhanded, but in the special case of Germany, it is one that Kohl should be pleased to receive.

In this weekend's mid-term state elections, Kohl has once again confounded those foolish enough to write his political obituary. The analysts may have had good factual grounds for predicting Kohl would do badly - polls had indeed shown his popularity slumping amid growing worries about the economy, unemployment and the snowballing fiasco of the European monetary union, Germany's pet project in the European Union.

Any untoward development in Germany rings extra-sensitive alarm bells. In recent years prophets of doom have focused on the consequences of the reunification of the two Germanies, on the ugly appearance of skinhead neo-Nazism and xenophobia, and on Germany's growing dominance in the EU. Through it all, Kohl has remained a solid and reassuring presence, taking all setbacks in his formidable political stride. German state elections are somewhat more important nationally than local elections are in most other democracies - the states' representatives comprise the upper house of parliament, the Bundesrat, which can block legislation passed by the lower house, the Bundestag.

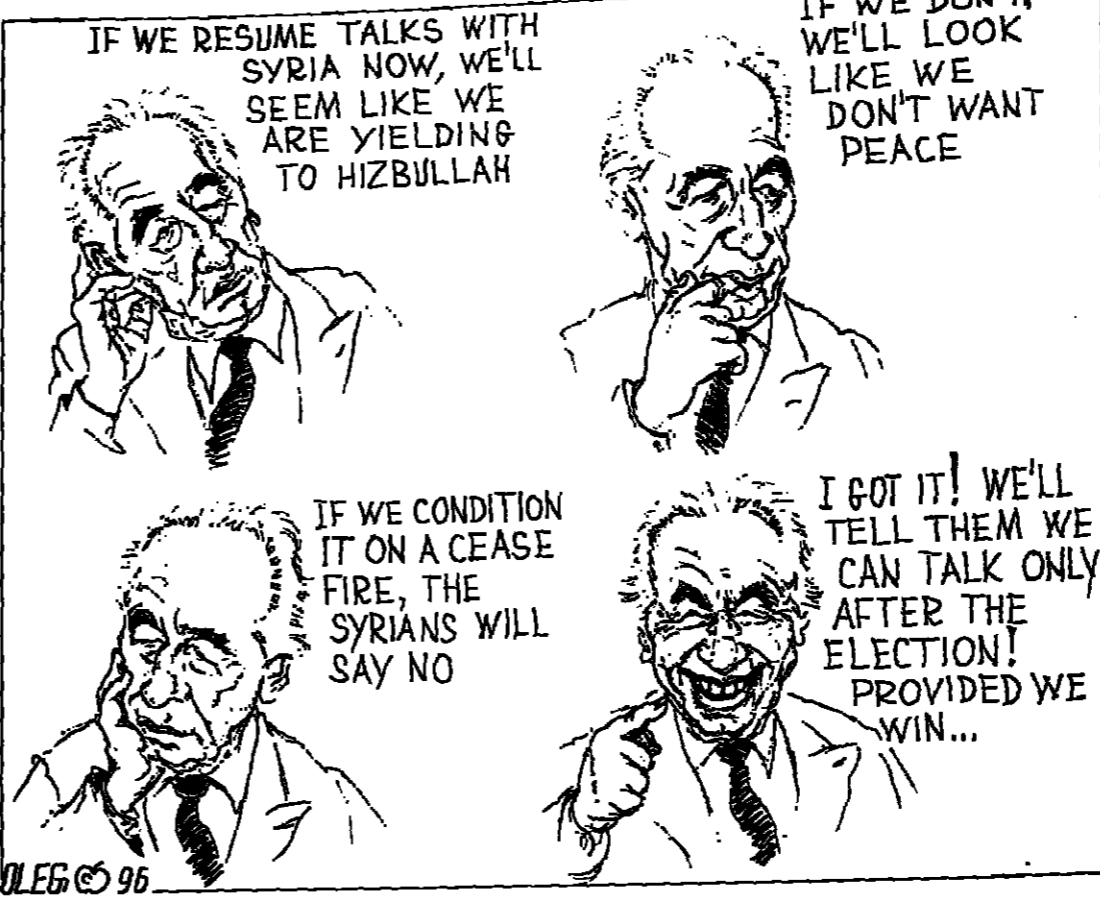
In the three state elections Kohl has once

again ridden out the storm brewing over fears of a recession. His governing coalition - the Christian Democrats (CDU) and their junior partner, the Free Democrats (FDP) - have been given a powerful endorsement by the grass roots German voters. The big loser was the main opposition Social Democrats Party (SPD). Kohl's victory over the opposition was all the more heartening because the new national leader of the SPD, Oskar Lafontaine, opted for populism in his election campaign.

The result was encouraging for outsiders because it demonstrated that the German people have no stomach for populism, however mild the brew. As one commentator said yesterday, Helmut Kohl may have some political weaknesses, but they clearly pale in voters' eyes when compared to an opposition that has few strengths. Lafontaine chose to hammer away at themes highlighted as unpopular in the opinion polls - the EU currency union and a wave of new immigrants from the former communist east and Russia.

The SPD received a well-deserved slap on the wrist for indulging in the prevalent modern political game of campaigning on opinion polls rather than on solid party principles. The SPD effectively abandoned its own proper platform of economic management in efforts to woo voters with far-right Republican issues. And the voters showed that while they may be happy to moan about populist issues in their local bars, their votes are too important to be given to those who agree with them for the sake of popularity. This is electoral maturity Europe long wished to see in Germany. That is has become deplored is due in no small measure to Chancellor Kohl.

## OPINION



## Logical, but illusory

GERALD M. STEINBERG

The Chinese military (formally called the People's Liberation Army) is holding war games near Taiwan and launching missile tests a few kilometers from the Taiwanese coast. Islands off the coast have been evacuated and Taiwan has been running civil defense drills and clearing out shelters in the event of a Chinese nuclear attack.

The cycle of threats and responses familiar from the crises of the Cold War is being repeated. The US has dispatched warships to strengthen deterrence and reminded the Chinese government of "serious consequences" in the event Taiwan is attacked. Chinese Premier Li Peng condemned the presence of America's 7th Fleet and demanded its departure.

US Secretary of Defense William Perry replied that the US "has the best damned navy in the world, and no one should forget that." That China is a nuclear power, with long-range intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of striking the US, is always in the background.

This crisis was unexpected, at least among the leaders and analysts who believe that as the economic status of nations increases and they become dependent on foreign investment and trade, they will avoid war.

For the past decade or more China's economic development has accelerated tremendously. From being one of the world's poorest countries, China has experienced one of the fastest economic growth rates in the world.

Foreign investment and international trade have created millions of jobs and raised the standard of living phenomenally. US and Taiwanese investors have fueled this process, investing tens of billions of dollars in new factories and technology. (According to published estimates, there are about 100,000 Taiwanese citizens residing and doing business in China, with investments estimated at \$25 billion.)

In theory, this economic growth should have served to deter China from engaging in dangerous and

destabilizing military activity. Surely an attack on Taiwan would be a blatant case of "biting the hand that feeds you."

However, since 1949, when the Nationalist government and its supporters fled to Taiwan, the (mainland) Chinese government has viewed these islands as a breakthrough province to be eventually reunited. Economic development and rising standards of living were supposed to reduce the nationalist and ideological factors in policy making. According to the theory of the "New World Order," Chinese leaders would recognize that a war would end foreign investment and trade, leading to massive unemployment, declining standards of living, and political unrest that would threaten the regime.

THE THEORY, however, is inconsistent with reality. The Communist and military leadership in Beijing has been unwilling to accept Taiwan's democracy and the tentative moves taken by Taiwan towards de jure independence, even in the face of US economic and even military responses. In the Chinese capital, there is talk about "recapturing lost glory" and challenging the US. Chinese military exercises and threats have already incurred a significant economic cost.

In Washington, the Republican leadership in Congress is threatening to invoke trade sanctions, including ending China's Most Favored Nation status. Even if there is no further escalation, the military tensions in the Pacific region will have a major impact on

relations with the US, Japan, South Korea, and all the other Asia-Pacific states, who will view China with suspicion and caution. These nations are major trading partners for China, and the source of technology and economic assistance.

But none of this has stopped the Chinese from escalating the conflict. The theory linking economic growth to military moderation isn't confined to relations between China and Taiwan. It is the major concept behind the Oslo agreements and the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Israeli and US government officials have frequently stated their belief that as Palestinian economic development proceeds the causes of terrorism and war, based on nationalism and ideology, will weaken and disappear. They argue that once the Palestinians have something to defend, both politically and economically, they will be careful not to endanger those achievements by resuming "the armed struggle" to destroy Israel.

The theory is logical and optimistic, but inconsistent with all the evidence of international relations. From China, through Serbia, and to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, it is not the logic of economic growth and cooperation that dominates, but the counter-logic of force, power and military capabilities.

Not long ago, Nabil Shaath, one of Arafat's closest advisers and thought to be a leading moderate, warned that if Israel does not accept Palestinian demands on Jerusalem, refugees, and borders, "we shall go back to the struggle and strife, as we did for 40 years, and all the acts of violence will return. Except that this time we'll have 30,000 armed Palestinian soldiers who will operate in areas in which we have unprecedented elements of freedom."

Economic development and cooperation are all well and good, but the future of the Middle East, like that of China, will be determined by the balance of military force.

The writer is a senior research fellow at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, Bar Ilan University.

# Bibi's balloon

YOSEF LAPID

Benny Begin's sarcastic speech didn't impress the Likud Central Committee members last week, chiefly because they didn't understand it.

When Begin declared that David Levy would look after the welfare of the Chechens, they looked at one another as if wondering whether Begin had gone off his rocker.

But the implication was clear: If Levy claims that he cares about the welfare of the nation and yet demands that he be given the Foreign Ministry, just which nation is he concerned about?

Everyone congratulated Bibi Netanyahu on his slick staging: The blue-and-white balloons floated down from the ceiling right on time. Unity was achieved, and the hall reeked of sweaty camaraderie.

Around 2,000 enthusiastic supporters cheered the finished product, confident that the Bibi/David/Rafael team would lead the Likud to victory, with security and peace.

It wasn't just David Levy who had come home. The Likud was itself again. Hearts overflowed. Bibi Netanyahu was preaching to the converted again.

But election victories aren't won among the party faithful, who are already in Bibi's pocket. Victory depends on the floating vote, which is further left than the Likud Central Committee.

The floating vote didn't come to the Tel Aviv Exhibition Grounds. It stayed home and followed the whole gaudy spectacle with amused alienation.

The floating vote was looking for a message.

It's fine and dandy that the right is united, and we all know behind whom they are united - but we don't know behind what they are united.

What is the message? What will Bibi do the morning after he wins the election? How does he plan to ensure peace and security? How will he stop terrorism? Will he have a different army, a different police force, a different nation?

Bibi says he has a different strategy, and the floating vote asks, what strategy?

The floating vote is generally intelligent. It is only floating because it is making up its mind. Only thinking people make up their minds - and while they're doing it they demand logical arguments. They need to be presented with a program which contains more than blind aspirations.

Election victories aren't won among the party faithful. What about the floating vote?

SOMEONE once said that all the professors in the country wouldn't fill one laboratory, but they could tip the scales in the next election. He meant thinking people, the sort who are capable of understanding Benny Begin's involved thought processes and can read Dan Meridor's bitter smile correctly.

If Bibi Netanyahu loses these elections, it will be because he has lost the vote of sensible people who aren't the property of any party and aren't bought by charisma and aren't overly impressed by American gimmicks, but who are painfully perplexed and seriously searching for reasonable answers to the problems gnawing at all our heartstrings.

Such people may be willing to forgive artificial displays of unity, because they know that politics is the profession of impossible people.

But they aren't prepared to vote for hollow slogans. Neither Rafal's outspoken straightforwardness, Levy's backneyed populism, nor a talking waxwork like Netanyahu will win over the floating vote.

The floating vote can only be won over by reasoned answers to what Internet terminology calls FAQ - frequently asked questions.

The intelligent voter who realizes that Yossi Sarid is a matruska doll containing nothing but more Yossi Sarids; the intelligent voter disappointed by the impotence of Amnon Rubinstein as the representative of North Tel Aviv; the intelligent voter concerned by the gap between Shimon Peres's vision and reality - he represents the floating vote that Bibi Netanyahu should be pursuing.

And it should be obvious that an intelligent person of this kind won't be voting for a balloon, whether floating down from the ceiling, or swelling up from the ground.

The author is an editorial writer for Ma'ariv.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**'COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT'**  
Sir, - We are told that the closure is "collective punishment." A normal feature of international relations. The US and other countries deny landing rights and operate trade sanctions against Libya because it has not extradited the Lockerbie bombers. Trade sanctions were imposed against Serbia by many countries and recently the US Congress has legislated very severe penalties against private companies operating in Cuba. An international boycott has been imposed on Iraq creating a shortage of food, medicine and other essentials resulting in reports of malnutrition and an inability of hospitals to provide proper treatment.

The purpose of these sanctions has been clearly stated, namely to force the offending country to comply or, as in the case of Cuba, to punish it; our purpose is security. We continue to supply food and other essentials and yet our refusal to allow foreigners into our country because of the justifiable fear of terrorism is described as "collective punishment." STANLEY LAUFER Herzliya.

**TRAFFIC JAMS**  
Sir, - What a miserable, carping, whining article from Jay Bailey ("Footling the Bill", March 17). So what if Jerusalem had a "bad traffic day" when Clinton came. He brought with him for a brief moment a respite from our worries and sorrows of the past few weeks. He came bursting with good wishes and good intentions and shed a ray of hope on our gloomy prognosis of the future. Well, of course, Jay, he did play havoc with schedules by (so selfishly) defying the advice of his security people by insisting on visiting the Jerusalem school which had suffered the tragic loss of four of its pupils.

Incidentally, in case Jay thinks I speak as one uninvolved, I travel to my work in Jerusalem every day, and on the day in question I found myself sitting in a virtually unmoving traffic jam on the approach to Jerusalem with a radiator rapidly reaching boiling point, due to a broken thermostat.

PAMELA LEVENE Moshav Tal Shahar.

**NO, MR. PRESIDENT!**  
Sir, - It was with no small amount of embarrassment and dismay that I found myself witnessing President Weizman's official snub of a visiting dignitary on March 13. It was simply bad manners on the president's part not to meet President Bill Clinton at Ben-Gurion Airport and excuses such as "official welcomes are made at Beit Hanassi" are seen for what they are - lame excuses for bad manners.

We have an outspoken and grumpy old man representing the state who, unfortunately, has been unable to curb his tongue on more than one occasion. President Clinton's short and tightly scheduled visit to the region brought much light and happiness to the nation at a time of darkness and gloom following the recent bombings. The boost to morale given to the injured and their families and to the schoolchildren was seen by many as far more important than taking time out to visit our president.

Sometimes, one has to set protocol aside for the good of the nation. RICHARD KNOTT Haseleim.

**AGAINST THE LAW**  
Sir, - D'vora Ben Shaul's recent article on the danger of dog packs was most interesting.

A few weeks ago, a veterinarian appeared on Israel TV news together with his fine rottweiler dog. I admired the dog, but was saddened to note the animal wore neither a collar nor name plate, which I always believed was required by law. Surely, a TV studio counts as a public place. ANNE KAYE Upper Nazareth.

**SHAATH SAID IT BEFORE**  
Sir, - It is not at all surprising that the "Westernized" and "moderate" Nabil Shaath, the PA's planning minister and chief negotiator, threatens a return to the "armed struggle." A year before the Rabin-Arafat handshake, Shaath told an Arab reporter that if he hears of an agreement between the PLO and Israel, he should be assured that it is merely transitional. "We shall never depart from our ultimate goal," he said.

JULIAN WHITE Jerusalem.

**KEEP GOING**  
Sir, - I am deeply saddened and troubled by the latest bombing in Jerusalem. But it would be even more devastating to stop the peace process now. Keep it going!

Israel has come through worse times, and come through their fighting and winning. A few maniacs must not destroy what most of the people of Israel, and most Palestinians, I am sure, do want most: peace.

JOSEPH PESCH Freiburg, Germany.

## A vested interest in peace

IZHAK BLANK

The police, military and intelligence offensive on Hamas and other related organizations doesn't really deal with the problem of terror. Sending terrorists to prison doesn't solve anything, since there will always be others to take their place.

Terror movements feed on poverty and fear. They cannot exist without the active and passive collaboration of at least part of the population.

Hamas's leaders exploit Palestinian poverty cleverly, allocating part of their funds for social welfare. They maintain kindergartens and schools, solving a difficult problem for parents with large families and scant resources. They teach and feed the children, inculcating them with their ideology.

Among the adult population, their volunteers distribute clothing, supply health care and occasionally offer financial aid.

They fight against the use of drugs, and preach strict orthodox behavior within the family. But they also intimidate those who don't go along with them, torturing and murdering those who disobey.

To achieve success in the war against Hamas, the battle must be fought on its territory. Together with security operations, resources need to be earmarked for economic and social welfare campaigns, to run parallel to Hamas's.

Children need to be fed and taught in schools where peaceful coexistence is preached. Their parents need to be assisted and protected from intimidation. Moderate religious leaders must

be encouraged to speak up.

Such an educational and welfare approach is in many ways far more difficult to implement than a security campaign. It is a long-term project requiring devotion and persistence. Its goal: to win over the confidence of the Palestinian population and persuade them, on the strictly personal level, that the most advantageous thing is to live with the Israelis in peaceful coexistence.

Israel can beat Hamas at its own game by creating jobs and sponsoring social welfare.

Bank and Gaza, preferably without them crossing the Green Line. In this, it could certainly count on financial and moral support from the US and many other countries.

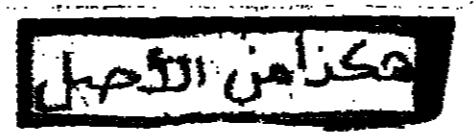
The border between the West Bank, Gaza and Israel runs for about 300 kilometers. Our experience, and that of other countries, has been that no fence can keep hungry people away from a prosperous labor market. The East Germans had to build a massive wall with barbed wire, dogs and guards prepared to shoot anyone attempting to cross over to the West.

As a democracy, Israel cannot and will not use such extreme measures. But it could create, at points along the border, industrial zones with labor-intensive factories where more than 100,000 Palestinian men and women could earn a living.

Some of our industrialists have already started exporting jobs to Jordan and Egypt, taking advantage of low salaries there. Were the government to encourage and assist the establishment of industries on the Israeli side of the border with the autonomy, our neighbors' energy could be channeled into constructive occupations. They would have a vested interest in the peace process.

They would become the best anti-terrorist barrier, while generating great economic benefit to Israel and the autonomy alike. This, linked to a health-care and welfare campaign spells hope for permanent peaceful coexistence.

The writer is a chemical engineer.



# Invitation to the trance: UK band faces acid test

POPULAR music has long been associated with drugs. From booze and the blues, to marijuana and rock 'n' roll, to cocaine and the disco scene, musicians and music-lovers often describe the positive effects drugs and music have when mixed. So it's no surprise that as music develops and changes the accompanying drug of choice should change too.

For many clubbers who like to dance to the monotonous, pounding beat of trance music, LSD and Ecstasy are an inextricable part of the psychedelic experience.

Simon Barry, whose London-based group Union Jack, The Art of Trance will perform at Tel Aviv's Hangar No. 11 on March 29, makes no bones about the link between his music and drug-taking. "Psychedelic trance music works perfectly with acid [LSD]," said the 25-year-old musician in a phone interview from London. The hallucinogen "is a very conscious drug and the music is mind-expanding. Coupled with acid, the music causes the mind to wander in

directions it wouldn't if you were to drink a pint [of beer]."

But Zev Eizek, producer of Union Jack's upcoming performance, said that while there is a connection between drugs and trance music, listening to it does not necessitate taking illegal substances.

"There is definitely an indirect relationship. But I don't see any connection between people who love music and people who have to take drugs to love music," he said. "God forbid you would come to listen to trance music and then feel you have to go find

a [drug] dealer to take something."

Over the past few years, the mono-rhythm trance music - which is characterized by having four beats to the bar played at regular intervals with the tempo of the music set at 120-150 beats per minute - has captivated the international club scene, where people pulsate to heavy music at all-night dance parties.

"The music is big largely because it's appealing to dance to. It's nice to be hypnotized on a dance floor," said Barry, explaining that the repetitious rhythms send people into a trance-like state.

"The success is largely due to the fact that the music people listen to in clubs works in harmony with narcotic substances." Recorded trance music is created by linking 20 to 30 synthesizers to a computer, which then follows programmed instructions regarding the choice of keyboard to be played and the intonations' modifications. Live trance music combines

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

live synthesizers with the recorded music. The two-year-old Union Jack group adds ingredients such as conga drums and vocals that soften the droning rhythm.

"There are a lot of melodies, vocals, and ethnic instruments," Barry said. "People who aren't necessarily into trance could get into our stuff. But there are styles of music that you can only hear when you're in [a drug-induced] state in a club."

While the chemicals associated with trance music are all illegal and several deaths at clubs in

Britain have been associated with drugs, Barry said none of the clubs he has played in have been raided by police, and he insists, the positive aspects of combining trance music with psychedelic drugs far outweigh the negative ones.

"[Fatal] cases are far and few between," he said. "The media exaggerated it beyond necessity. It's very good from a peace point of view."

"If you go to a club where acid is being taken, you won't see any fighting; only a positive attitude and vibe."

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## On the mild side: Lou Reed in love

NEW RELEASES  
TIRZAH AGASSI

"Tuneless" is not the first word that generally springs to mind when thinking of Lou Reed. He's not a singalong kinda guy. Nonetheless there is something so compelling about the insistent honesty of his voice, and the often angry wit of his lyrics that people do sing along.

There were those who complained about the emptiness of his acoustic set at Peter Gabriel's "peace show" here a few years ago.

This reviewer, on the other hand, was amazed at the way he nonchalantly faced the thousands at Yarkon Park on stage completely alone.

Beside me sat a group of Israeli kids of not yet army age, singing along word for word... even to his songs about cancer.

Lou Reed is great because he's never a "filler." He's always saying something, always facing things head on, whether bisexuality as in "Take A Walk On the Wild Side," addiction as in "Heroin," or death by cancer as in "Magic and Loss." In *Ser The Twilight Reeling* (Hed Arzi), Reed, who is over 50, faces falling madly in love.

"I want a trade in/ A 14th chance at this life/ I met a woman with a thousand faces/ And I want to make her my wife."

He goes so far as to write these lyrics all over his face in black ink. "In the pocket of the heart, in the rushing of the blood/ In the muscle of my sex, in the mindless mindless love/ I accept the new found man and set the twilight reeling."

The sentiments are there. But don't expect a Romantic Bryan Adams-style gift wrap. The flat, fat, avant-garde guitar that predates the various young white "alternative" sounds of today is still evident.

But it's mellowed. At one point Reed really does go so far as to bring in some sweet Latin embell-



Having sung about the underside of life for most of his career, Lou Reed is now waxing lyrical about a woman and egg creams.

ishments. And he's actually lined up a chorus of friends singing an odd kind of harmony. In its own subtle way, the music really moves.

It's not the kind of sound with mass appeal. But there are plenty who will enjoy the abundant attitude of freedom songs full of vocabulary best not printed in this paper. A song about the love of Brooklyn egg creams will not be to everybody's taste. But if you know what he's talking about it

just might get to you. Though there is often a droning quality to the music, it is also rich and beautiful, with a bass-line that gets under your skin. And his lack of vocal range is made up for by the emotional range of his spoken song. It's good to hear him struggling with a complicated love and feeling so keenly alive.

IT'S too bad that the same can't be said for the remaining Beatles. Their comeback extravaganza has

turned sour. It had to happen. How long can you get away with releasing archive material for mass public consumption, before somebody starts to get irritated? In this case "somebody" is the British pop station BBC Radio 1 which refused to play the second "new" Beatles single "Real Love," because it is of "insufficient merit."

The song in itself is actually not bad, but the hype has been overdone. *The Beatles Anthology* tele-

vision spectacular was indeed spectacular. But few nostalgia fans are such diehards that they really want to hear a recording of the rehearsal for "I'm Only Sleeping."

*The Beatles Anthology 2* (NMC) is interesting listening for serious students eager to understand the group's dynamic as they developed in the studio. Otherwise, one would do better to invest in the music they saw fit to release in the first place.

## Monodrama prize is a head-scratcher

THEATER REVIEW  
NAOMI DOUDAI

Seventh TheaterNetto Festival at Neveh Tzedek. Artistic Director: Itzik Weingarten. Manager: Ya'acov Agnon. In collaboration with the Habimah National Theater, and the Tel Aviv Camsert Theater.

Here is last week's random sampling of four unimpressive TheaterNetto events. They include the winner of the annual Nissim Azikri competition. First prize was awarded to Shmuel Vilozny for his *Jew in Darkness* (*Yehudi Behoshech*). Yonatan Ben-Nahum's adaptation of Oren Neeman's *Vidu'i*. Direction, Shmuel Vilozny; design, Iris Retinsky; music, Ronen Ben-David; lighting, Natan Panturin.)

While there is no denying the grandeur of the audiovisual effects lavished by Habimah on the latter production, or the impact of Vilozny's charm and talent as an entertainer, why he should be named the winner here is a puzzle. From his prologue (an unabashed audience come-on delivered in his inimitable stand-up comedy style) to his frantically romantic rendering of a Marrano priest, victim of the Spanish Inquisition, Vilozny's study is unconvincing because it is totally unauthentic.

In his superficial treatment, the sacred and the sensual are indiscriminately switched with morbid patches of erotica and melodrama. More disappointing, the significant spiritual and deeply Jewish elements of the text are glibly glossed over.

Shimon Lev-Ari's treatment of the Oedipus myth and Sophocles' play in *Oedipus in the Skies* (text, Shimon Lev Ari; direction, Edna Shavit; lighting, Amir Brenner) is original and, if somewhat academic, interesting intellectually. His presentation is distinguished by the perfect diction, well-judged pacing and noteworthy restraint of a highly accomplished actor. Those whose grasp of the holy tongue is little more than basic may, however, find his high Hebrew heavy going.

Idit Tepperson, on the contrary, overdoes her rendering of *Bedmai Yamehu* ("In the Prime of Life"), one of Agnon's most touching love stories. (Direction and adaptation, Yoram Falk; set, Moishik Josefow; costumes, Michal Lior; music, Effie Shoshanni. Hasifriya Theater production.) The sacred and the sensual inform this highly psychological monodrama too. If Tepperson's feeling for the rich mishnaic Hebrew text is sincere, her performance as narrator shows strain.

Bahat Klatchky carries *The House on the Verge...* (*Habovot Hotech Lihyon*) based on Lili Perry's novel. (direction, Yoram Gal) with inexhaustible drive. As the "abused" daughter of this confessional, she shows herself worthy of the chance to go solo that TheaterNetto offers its participants. A striking stage presence, though hampered by an often banal and over-attenuated text, keeps audience interest alive.

## Batsheva troupes team up, beautifully

DANCE REVIEW  
DORA SOWDEN

THE latest offering by the combined Batsheva companies - Dance and Ensemble - at the Suzanne Dellal Theater in Tel Aviv (March 21) was not only a reaffirmation of their past successes but also a demonstration of aspects of modern dance at its best.

The two guest choreographers and their own Ohad Naharin demonstrated how to achieve a strong performance: clear-cut, individual yet so notably linked in style and so highly professional in attack that they could be said to form a kind of "school" of method.

Angelina Preljocaj's *White Tears* (with music by Bach, Palestrina and Purcell) provided more than a hint of its period setting in moves and costume, yet the dance was thoroughly of now. Jiri Kiliyan's *Six Dances* (with music by Mozart) included touches of 18th-century costume in the ruffs and ruffles, and was a fun piece, slightly satirical at times, pure parody at others.

Naharin's *Arbus* was something else: serious, dramatic, backed by Ivo Partos's oratorical music, and with sumptuous, heavy costumes that conveyed a sense of story.

The dancing was brilliant throughout.

TO MARK and honor the publication of a book (in Hebrew) on Yemenite Jewish culture by Naomi and Avner Bahat, an evening of Yemenite dance and song was arranged by Ayala Goren at the Wise Auditorium at Jerusalem's Hebrew University (March 19) with the two authors in attendance to explain their work.

They sat at a side table on the platform while eight men in traditional white robes sang and danced to the music that they themselves created with voices and drums. Their authenticity and skill were fascinating.

In the second half of the evening a larger group of women and men in rich bejeweled garments danced and sang. The choreography was elaborate, and included the entry of the women with trays of flowers and flickering candles on their heads.

"This is the material from which Sara Levi-Tanai fashioned her inimitable Inbal Theater," said a member of the audience, which joined the dancers on the stage. Alas, the wonderful Inbal Theater itself has now been closed down.

## Time flies at the first edition of Tempus Fugit

CONTEMPORARY music is an unloved stepchild on the local scene; even Israeli composers are denied their rightful opportunities. But Tempus Fugit, a biennial contemporary-music festival presented by the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, is changing all that. In this its first year, there were 18 concerts over four days, featuring no fewer than 65 compositions, many of them Israeli.

The driving force behind this development is Avigayil Arneheim, director of music at the museum. While persuading various authorities to contribute to the budget, she appointed the Israeli, US-based composer Shulamit Ran artistic director. This proved a brilliant choice.

The audience, at first scarce, gradually filled the halls and galleries.

Among the artists from abroad, one of the standouts was the great American singer Phyllis Bryn-Julson who, together with the remarkable American violinist Violan Melancon, managed to do full justice to the monumental 80-minute work *Kafka Fragments* by the Hungarian composer Gyorgy Kurtag.

The performances by clarinetist Charles Neidich - both his recital with pianist Victor Derevianko, and the final concert (with the Israel Chamber Orchestra conducted by Noam Sheriff), of a work by the Japanese composer Teriyaki Suzuki - were a delight.

Another momentous event was the performance of *Excursions* by Shulamit Ran's trio. While Ran's trio is deeply rooted in the chamber-music tradition of Beethoven, Brahms and Schoenberg, its style is contemporary. The explosive performance projected an immense amount of energy.

Three Israeli orchestras and ensembles each played a great local composition. The Israel Camerata Rehovot under Itai Talgam gave a wonderful rendition of Seter's now-classical *Rivchar* (1960). The Musica Nova Consort, with Betty Olivero's exciting *Presence* (1986), was a wonderful synthesis of regional elements and contemporary sound patterns conducted by Denis Cohen.

And Yinan Lee's masterpiece for alto oboe and string orchestra, *Threads of Time and Distance* (1995) based on texts by Orna Ellstein and Rivka Miriam, was entrusted to veteran alto Mira Zakai, to the excellent young German oboist, Gabriela Bukobski and the Camerata Women's String Orchestra conducted by Menahem Nebenhaus.

Lee's music is deeply moving. It is also deeply rooted in the region and its lyricism and occasional operatic paths are irresistible.

A thrilling reading of a Schmitke sonata by Israeli cellist Mikhail Khomitsner and pianist Derevianko also deserves

### CONCERT ROUNDUP

unqualified praise. It's a shame that Khomitsner is not given the opportunity to play with our orchestras.

Not everything was such a delight. The music of Arik Shapira, Raviv Gazit, Annon Wollman and Chaja Chermowin was an affront to the intelligence. It's unbelievable that the world-famous Arditi String Quartet - whose concert with works by Seter, Carter, Brian Ferneyhough and Ligeti was another highlight of the festival - wastes its time with Chermowin's sheer nonsense.

Tel Aviv Museum, March 18, 19, 20 and 21.

Benjamin Bar-Am

VADIM MONASTYRSKI shows in his Friday concerts in Ein Kerem that he is a pianist of stature. His playing refutes conventional generalizations regarding present-day Russian pianists' alleged hard touch and predominantly technical approach.

His touch can indeed be harsh and explosive, but only when required, for example, to create a

contrast with the preceding sounds of Kopytman's *Alliteration*. It can, likewise, be forcefully percussive, in the manner characteristic of the early Bartok Piano Sonata (1926). Here, too, it alternates with a delicately calm tone in the slow, relaxed movement.

He produced a delightfully soft touch in Shostakovich's Prelude and Fugue op. 87/14, evoking the meditative mood frequently prevailing in this composer's later works.

In Liszt's Piano Sonata in B minor, pathetic and over-dramatic as it is, Monastyrski displayed an amazingly rich palette of tonal colors, from the subtlest pianissimo to overpowering sonorities, delivered with powerful temperamental expression alternating with delicate lyricism. His virtuosity and ability to build up tension were brilliant.

Targ Music Center, Jerusalem, March 22.

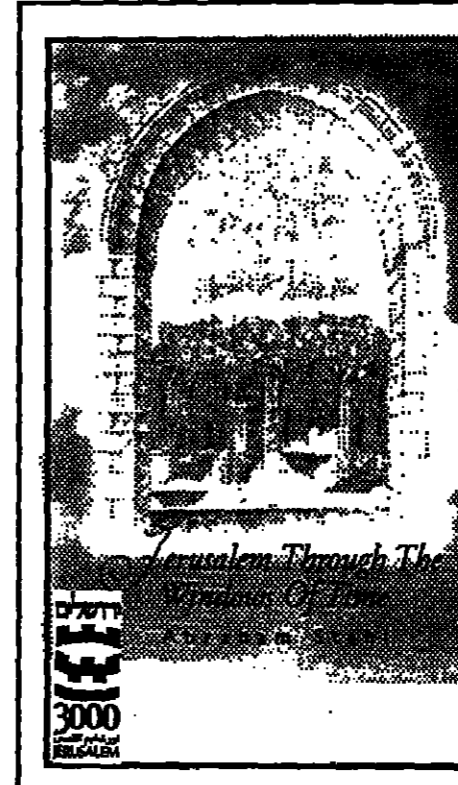
Ury Eppstein

IN COMMEMORATION of Shaul Rosolio, the former chairman of the Targ Music Center who died four years ago, some of

### TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEKS ON CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	NEW	SHLOMO ARTZI	TWO
#2	3	DREAMLAND	BEST OF DREAM MUSIC
#3	NEW	THE BEATLES	ANTHOLOGY 2
#4	5	NICK CAVE	MURDER BALLADS
#5	11	OASIS	MORNING GLORY
#6	10	DANNY LITANI	DANNY LITANI
#7	19	STING	MERCURY FALLING
#8	16	YEHUDA POLIKER	THE CHILD IN YOU
#9	2	MADONNA	SOMETHING TO REMEMBER
#10	NEW	TAKE THAT	GREATEST HITS
#11	11	ABBA	GREATEST HITS
#12	15	ARKADI DUCHIN	BEST OF
#13	7	VARIOUS ARTISTS	ARKADI DUCHIN SLEEPWALK COMPILATION
#14	NEW	RITA	
#15	NEW		

Tower Records' top-selling albums for the previous week. RE - re-entry.



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# BUSINESS & FINANCE

Tuesday, March 26, 1996

## Bank of Israel leaves rates unchanged

Jerusalem Post Staff

INTEREST rates next month will remain at their current level, the Bank of Israel said yesterday in its announcement of the monetary program for April.

The central bank's short-term rate was set last month at 14 percent, when it was raised by 30 basis points.

The decision follows two higher-than-expected monthly climbs in the Cost of Living Index, each by 90 basis points, which led some analysts to expect another tightening move by Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frankel.

The bank said the decision not to change its monetary policy stemmed from a need to further gauge the impact of recently released indicators, including an

increase in the public's inflationary expectations and high budget deficits over the first two months of the year.

The government's budget deficit must not be allowed to exceed its annual target, 2.5% of GDP, the bank said.

The economy's levels of demand seem higher than necessary, as reflected in increased consumption and retail commerce, as well as the growth in the current-account deficit, the central bank said.

The bank added that the economic impact of the closure on traffic between Israel and territories controlled by the Palestinian Authority has yet to express itself in the macro-economic indicators.

## Intel gets final OK to build plant in Kiryat Gat

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

THE government has given final approval to Intel Corporation's plan to build a \$1.6 billion semiconductor plant in Kiryat Gat, the Treasury announced yesterday.

After months of wrangling over the size of the capital investment grant the government would offer Intel, the two parties agreed that Israel would give the originally stipulated grant of 38 percent in exchange for Intel's commitment to buy Israeli goods and services for its local and international branches.

The \$608 million Intel will receive will go toward a wafer fabrication plant that will make memory chips for the storage of electronic data.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said Intel is expected to provide employment for 2,500 people once the company is running at full capacity and will export \$1b. per year.

In order to stay ahead of heavy competition, Intel - the world's largest producer of microprocessors, with 75% of the market and more than \$1.6 in sales - has continually earmarked billions of dollars for investment in its facilities, equipment and research and development programs.

Last year, Intel invested \$100m. in upgrading its motherboard operations, and two years ago the company opened new plants in Ireland and the US, including a \$1.3b. chip factory in Arizona.

The amount of goods and services Intel will be required to purchase has not yet been announced.

## 'Alter type of state aid for pension funds'

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE crisis in the provident fund sector is due to the government's decision to give the pension funds special state bonds, Israel Discount Bank chairman Gideon Lahav said yesterday at the bank's annual press conference.

Lahav called on the government to subsidize savings for pensions through a direct budget method, instead of issuing pension funds with special government bonds with subsidized yields.

"The method chosen, that is issuing bonds which have a guaranteed yield, is a method which is damaging to the capital market in general and directly damages provident fund depositors, Lahav said. "This has already happened.

Now that another change in pension rights is being discussed, alternative methods should be considered, and the simple and direct method is a budget method."

Commenting on proposals regarding amendment 11 to the bank law, which will force Bank Discount to sell all its holdings in First International Bank, Lahav said it will cause much damage and no good.

"The bank forecasts that implementation of the government's decisions and the discussed legislation is likely to hinder the bank in the future," Lahav said. "But it

is not possible to gauge the magnitude of the damage - neither in quality nor in quantity."

At the end of 1995, Discount held 26.4% of First International Bank's share capital and 11.1% of its voting rights.

The bank's share in the net income of First International fell to NIS 38.1m. from NIS 40m.

The proposed law will also have an effect on the bank's holdings in Israel Credit Cards (ICC), which issues Visa credit cards.

At the end of 1995, the bank owned 35% of ICC share capital and the rights to appoint 50% of its directors. Discount's share in the net income of ICC increased to NIS 7.4m. from NIS 6.8m.



A grim reaper entertains some of the several thousand health care workers gathered in a Prague square yesterday to protest against low salaries and the government's health care policy. (Reuters)

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

Bezeq and the New York telecommunications company NYNEX are looking into the possibility of cooperating on the worldwide cable project FLAG and in the technology for sending films to consumers over phone lines. Bezeq chairman Gurion Meltzer and NYNEX director Yitzhak Kaul met in New York yesterday with NYNEX managing director Ivan Zandberg to discuss the project. They are attending a gathering of 300 financial analysts and investors on the attending aspects of telecommunications firms. It was organized by Merrill-Lynch, which is coordinating Bezeq's upcoming stock issue on the world markets. *Judy Siegel*

## Clal Ind. in talks to sell holdings in Sunfrost

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

CLAL Industries, a subsidiary of Clal Israel, is negotiating to sell some of its holdings in frozen-food producer Sunfrost to an international company based in Switzerland as part of a partnership agreement, sources in the food industry said.

According to the proposed agreement, the foreign company will cooperate in production and distribution of frozen products. Clal Industries currently owns 57.2% of the frozen food manufacturer.

Sunfrost ended the year with a net loss of NIS 7.09m., compared with a net loss of NIS 1.69m. in 1994.

Management blamed the loss on a reduction in commissions from distribution activities, partly as a result of the company's decision

to cease distribution of Tivoli and MBI products.

The losses were also due to a rise in financing expenses to NIS 2.99m. from NIS 1.05m., mainly because of the increase in interest rates on short-term loans.

The net losses were also blamed on losses of NIS 4.15m., resulting from the company's share in the losses of Goldsun, a frozen vegetable and fruit producer in Hungary.

After the reported period, Sunfrost decided to invest another \$1m. in Goldsun in an attempt to help the company solve its liquidity problems. Sunfrost has a 35% stake in Goldsun.

Sales fell to NIS 143.1m. from NIS 157.6m. in 1994. Cost of sales decreased to NIS 107.8m. from NIS 126.1m.

## Industrial plants along Jerusalem's seam hurt by closure

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

INDUSTRIAL plants located along the seam in greater Jerusalem have suffered NIS 7 million in losses due to the closure preventing some 800 workers from the territories coming to work, according to Sheika Altvia, chairman of the Manufacturers Association Jerusalem district.

Altvia said yesterday that total damages to firms along the seam are NIS 400,000 each day.

Accumulated losses in both Aharot and Talpiot total NIS 4.7m. and in Ma'aleh Adumim about NIS 4.7m.

In Mishor Adumim, where there was an easing of the closure over a week ago, the accumulated loss has reached NIS 2.4m.

Speaking at a press conference in Jerusalem on the occasion of Industrial Day in Jerusalem, Altvia said the majority of industrial firms in the capital have not suffered heavy losses, since they are less dependent on workers from the territories.

Altvia called on the government to solve the Seam-Line areas employment and economic problems of firms located along the seam. She emphasized that the government encouraged firms to set up in the area to increase Israeli-Palestinian cooperation in the industrial field.

In Aharot, Altvia proposed setting up similar conditions to those in the industrial areas of Ezeq, Barkan and Mishor Adumim, or to move the checkpoint to the municipal boundaries.

"It is absurd that Arab residents living in the area are not allowed to work in the factories," said Altvia. About 1,600 workers are employed in Aharot, 1,800 in Mishor Adumim and 1,500 in Talpiot.

Before the closure, there was a shortage of 300 workers in Aharot, 320 in Mishor Adumim and 200 in Talpiot. Total annual turnover is about NIS 300m. in Aharot, NIS 350m. in Mishor Adumim and NIS 250m. in Talpiot.

## Israel Discount Bank reports rise in annual net income

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

ISRAEL Discount Bank, the country's third largest bank, yesterday reported a 9.7 percent growth in net income last year to NIS 243.4 million from NIS 221.9m. in 1994.

Net profits for the fourth quarter

almost tripled to NIS 62.21m. from NIS 21.64m. in the corresponding period last year.

Net return on shareholders' equity increased to 7.3% from 6.7%. The board declared a total cash dividend of NIS 86.5m. for the year.

Management emphasized that the increase reflects a growth in deposits and credits. Deposits from the public grew 13.9% to NIS 58.54b. and credit to the public

grew 16.3% to NIS 37.25 billion from 1994.

At the end of March, Discount's shares returned to trading on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange following the government's sale of 8% of the bank's shares and options for an additional 8% of the shares. Income from financing activities before provisions for doubtful

debts increased 19.1% to NIS 2.059b. from NIS 1.729b. the previous year. The rise is mainly a result of a significant growth of financing activity in the non-linked shekel sector.

The provision for doubtful debts almost doubled to NIS 283.5m. from NIS 148.5m. Management said doubtful debts did not characterize any particular sector.

Operating and other income fell 7.1% to NIS 826.8m. from NIS

890.1m.

The decline resulted mainly from a contraction in activity in the primary and secondary capital markets, and a decline in the value of securities portfolios of customers of the bank.

Operating and other expenses increased 4.1% to NIS 2.08b. from NIS 2b.

Total assets increased to NIS 69.88b. from NIS 65.13b. at the end of last year.

## DMAtex suffers net losses of \$3.4 million

COMANY RESULTS

RACHEL NEIMAN

HIGH-TECH systems house DMAtex, the first Israeli company admitted to the Alternative Investment Market of the London Stock Exchange, reported net losses last year of \$3.46 million, compared with net losses of \$988,000 in 1994.

Annual revenues went up to \$785,000 from \$212,000.

The losses were in line with projections at the time of flotation, said chairman Bernard Garbacz, who noted the fourth quarter net loss of \$663,000 "was greatly reduced compared to those incurred in the previous three quarters."

"During 1995 the emphasis of the group changed from product development to marketing and sales, said Garbacz, who added that benefits were beginning to be seen. "All net proceeds from our recent placing on AI are being [used] in expanding the marketing and development of the groups activities," he added.

DMAtex's two main subsidiaries are Elmo Tech and Advanced Vision Technology.

Elmo Tech recently concluded negotiation for distribution of its electronic monitoring systems for the house arrest market.

Yehuda Wire Mesh posted net profits of NIS 5.5m. last year, compared with net losses of NIS 719,000 in 1994.

Revenues went up to NIS 113m. from NIS 93m.

Fourth quarter net losses were NIS 703,000, compared with net profits of NIS 2.2m. in the same period in 1994.

Quarterly revenues rose to NIS 70.4m. from NIS 35.3m.

In 1994, the company experienced NIS 3.15m. in losses on trade securities.

Consolidated revenues rose 159% to NIS 248.7m. from NIS 95.8m. due to the takeover of Ram Metals by subsidiary Yehuda Metals.

Off Tene Industries reported net losses of NIS 593,000 last year, compared with net losses of NIS 3.8m. in 1994.

Revenues went up to NIS 129m. from NIS 112.66m.

Losses were attributed to net losses of NIS 892,000 in the second quarter, due to a drop in profitability of turkey products.

Last year the company invested NIS 5.82m. in property, plant and equipment, including trucks for distribution. Off Tene is in the process of converting its product line from frozen to chilled.

The company operates 12

slaughterhouses, the largest of which is the Tuva-affiliated Off Yerushalayim.

Off Tene estimates its share of the poultry market at some 10%-11%, of which 61.6% are chicken and 38.4% turkey.

Retail chains make up some 22% of annual turnover; the company is not primarily dependent on a specific customer.

Compuite Research and Development suffered a fall in net profits to NIS 158,000 from NIS 412,000. Revenues fell to NIS 14.9m. from NIS 17m., while earnings per share fient down to NIS 0.05 from NIS 0.13.

Research and development costs rose to NIS 415,000 from NIS 324,000. Exports, which make up 90% of the firm's activity, fell to NIS 13.5m. from NIS 14.4m. Sales to the local market fell to NIS 1.4m. from NIS 2.6m.

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Source: Telephone quotes, May 1994

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**ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK**

Results published on this page yesterday pertained to Africa-Israel Hotels and not as printed.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS			
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (25.3.96)			
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$50,000)	4.50	4.50	4.75
French franc (€100,000)	4.25	4.25	4.50
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.875	1.875	2.50
Swiss franc (SF 500,000)	0.975	0.975	0.825
Yen (10 million yen)			
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)			
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (25.3.96)			
Currency basket	BUY	SELL	Rep. Rate
U.S. dollar	3.4520	3.5077	3.4800
German mark	2.0744	2.1079	2.0950
French franc	4.6075	4.7428	4.6100
Japanese yen (100)	0.8769	0.8768	0.8768
Dutch guilder	1.8940	1.8940	1.8940
Swiss franc	2.5935	2.5935	2.5935
Swedish krona	0.4825	0.4700	0.4825
Norwegian krone	0.4772	0.4848	0.4848
British pound	0.3373	0.3480	0.3480
Finland mark	0.6255	0.6783	0.6783
Canadian dollar	2.2486	2.2849	2.2849
Australian dollar	2.2742	2.3224	2.3224
S. African rand	0.7728	0.7824	0.7824
Belgian franc (10)	1.0100	1.0283	1.0283
Austrian schilling (10)	2.9499	2.9976	2.9976
Italian lire (1000)	1.9511	1.9828	1.9828
Jordanian dinar	—	—	—
Egyptian pound	—	—	—
ECU	3.8222	3.9144	3.9144
High punt	4.8148	4.8923	4.8923
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4880	2.5079	2.5079
* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.			
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI			

مكتبة الناصري



first Poland... was... in Bosnia... POST... JERUSALEM TIME

The Jerusalem Post Tuesday, March 26, 1996

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Unchanged interest rates send shares up

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL



STOCKS rose yesterday following three days of losses after the Bank of Israel said it would leave interest rates unchanged.

Gains were led by Bank Ha-poalim, which rose two percent after an economist said the bank was trading at a relatively low price compared to its earnings.

The bank, the country's largest in terms of assets, expects to announce fourth-quarter earnings on April 1.

The Maof Index rose 0.37% to 204.96 and the Two-Sided went up 0.32% to 195.30.

Of 992 issues trading across the exchange, six shares fell for every five that rose. Some NIS 80 million worth of shares traded, NIS 20.5 million above Sunday's level and about even with month's average trading level.

The central bank's decision to leave the rate at which it lends to banks unchanged at 14% "wasn't that much of a surprise, but it had a positive effect," said Dror Kraus, a broker with Tel Aviv investment firm Koq Investments Ltd.

The Bank of Israel last changed interest rates on February 1, when it raised the rate at which it lends to banks 0.3 percentage points.

Investors had been concerned that the bank would raise rates after the Consumer Price Index went up a higher-than-expected 0.9% in both January and February.

Running at a rate of 11% to 12% annually, this year's inflation is exceeding 1995's 8.1% rate and this year's target of 8-10%.

Other gaining shares on the Maof Index included Bezeq, which rose 1.75% in late trading as investors bet the company's plans to sell shares on foreign stock exchanges later this year would boost prices.

Bezeq hopes to raise \$500-\$600 million from the sale of 26% of the company, announced in July 1995 and originally scheduled for the fourth quarter last year.

While no date for the sale has yet been announced, it is expected in the second quarter this year. (Bloomberg)

FTSE falls 25 points on 'mad-cow' scare

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - Shares closed lower as worries over the impact of the "mad cow" scare weighed on sentiment and a dozen FTSE-100 stocks went ex-dividend.

Some food stocks were among the biggest decliners as the FTSE-100 dropped 25.1 points, to 3,681.9, wiping out Friday's gains.

FRANKFURT - Shares closed trade just off all-time highs as the favorable outcome from the weekend's state elections boosted sentiment on the German share market.

The IBIS DAX Index of 30 blue-chips closed trading up 34.96 points, or 1.41 percent, at 2,514.80. Earlier the DAX closed floor trade at an all-time high of 2,510.32, up 6.30 points, or 0.25%.

PARIS - Shares rallied sharply, closing above 2,000 points for the first time since March 7, as the bourse tracked strong gains in US and German financial markets.

The CAC-40 Index closed up 29.48, or 1.49%, at 2,003.83 after breaching resistance at the 2,000-level.

ZURICH - Shares closed higher as investors once again sought the shares of Ciba-Geigy and Sandoz, which earlier this month announced they would merge into Novartis, a new pharmaceutical giant.

But dealers cautioned that investors might soon start swapping pharmaceutical shares into insurance shares because of the higher potential for gains. The broad

closed up 214.52 points at 20,915.44.

HONG KONG - Stocks closed smartly higher but off their peaks, boosted by surging index futures on signs of an easing in China-Taiwan tensions after the island's presidential elections on Saturday, players said.

The blue-chip Hang Seng Index ended up 85.03 points at 11,111.76.

SYDNEY - The share market closed higher with BHP and CRA dominating turnover but with little else of interest to ensure players stayed awake.

The all ordinaries index closed 10.4 points higher at 2,255.4.

JOHANNESBURG - Shares pushed higher in busy late trade, with golds maintaining strength on the back of a firm bullion price and industrial commodities closing on a bullish sentiment.

Dealers said the market had undergone a mild correction off its recent highs and underlying strength was starting to emerge.

The all-share index put on 45.0 points to 6,735.5, the industrial index was up 38.6 to 8,318.2 and the gold index rose 38.4 to 1,814.4.

Bonds boost blue chips

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks sprinted higher yesterday on the back a steep fall in long-term interest rates, but the rally was dampened by a drop in technology shares sparked by fears that the industry may feel the brunt of an expected cut in capital spending.

At 1 p.m. EST, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 12.64 points at 5,649.28 after profit-taking emerged in an early morning surge of more than 40 points.

In the broader market, advancing issues led declines 11-9 on moderate volume of 196 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

The Nasdaq composite index, which is laced with technology stocks, was off 7.19 points at 1,095.03.

Until the US switches its clocks for Daylight Savings Time, the Dow Jones results published in the paper will be from 3 p.m. New York time.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Table with columns: Name, Price, Change, Volume, % Change, Volume, Price, Change, % Volume. Includes sections for Multi-sided trading, Two-sided trading, AFTERNOON, and MORNING.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK THE PEOPLE YOU CAN BANK TO

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Table with columns: Name, Price, Chg, Name, Price, Chg, Name, Price, Chg, Name, Price, Chg. Lists various international companies and their stock prices.

Key Representative Rates: US dollar ... NIS 4.0850 -0.23%, Sterling ... NIS 4.7043 -0.89%, Mark ... NIS 2.0824 +0.20%

NEW STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes: DJ Industrials, S&P 500, NYSE Composite, etc.

Other stock markets in NY

Table listing various stock indices and their values, including NYSE/AMEX, FTSE 100, and others.

Dollar crossrates (US)

Table showing exchange rates for various currencies: Pound, D-mark, S-mark, Yen, etc.

Libor rates

Table showing LIBOR rates for different terms: 3 months, 6 months, 12 months, etc.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds

INFLATION COMMODITIES AND METALS

US commodities: Cocoa, Sugar, Wheat, Soybean, etc.

London commodities

Table listing London commodity prices for various metals and goods.

Spot market metals (US)

Table showing spot prices for various metals like Gold, Silver, etc.

New York metal futures

Table showing New York metal futures prices for Gold, Silver, etc.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Table showing cross-rates between major currencies: MARK, STERLING, YEN, SFY, FFf.

SPORTS

# Israel in tough test against Croatia today

ORI LEWIS

ISRAEL'S national soccer side faces one of its toughest tests in preparation for the upcoming World Cup qualifying competition when it takes on Croatia in Varazdin this afternoon.

Croatia is a highly rated side which is considered to be a real dark horse at the European Nations' Championships in England in June.

Israel, for its part, will want to put behind it the 4-0 drubbing it suffered at the hands of its hosts when the two sides met in Israel in 1994.

That loss was considered to be one of Israel's worst performances of recent times. The team which left for Croatia yesterday still has the same core of players, although like the Croatians, the visitors will be without two of their most influential players, Ronny Rosenthal and Ronnen Harazi.

Others who have been left out are Maccabi Haifa goalkeeper Rafi Cohen, who has been overlooked in favor of Golan Malul and Cohen's teammate, defender Avishai Janno, who was left behind to give Arik Benado a chance to prove himself.

Malul will share goalkeeping duties with team regular Bonnie Ginsburg.

Two other Israeli squad members left behind are Najwan Grayev and Amir Turjeman who are both injured.

Czech Shlomo Scharf hopes that Croatia, which will be without three of its leading players, will nevertheless be tough enough to stimulate the likes of Russia and Bulgaria, both of which Israel will have to face in the World Cup qualifiers.

Even without forwards Davor Suker and Alen Boksic, who play for Seville and Lazio respectively, and midfielder Zvonimir Boban of AC Milan, the Croatians will be a formidable force with several other players who play for top European clubs.

The Croatians are very confident of success at Euro '96 and have apparently already invited their president, Franjo Tudjman to the final at Wembley Stadium.

Israel's expected lineup for today's match is: Malul, Felix Halfon, Gadi Brumer, Amir Shelah, Moshe Glam, Alon Hazan, Nir Klingler, Haim Revivo, Eyal Berkowitz, Tal Banin, Hezi Shirazi, Izzik Zobar, Reuven Ahar and Bonnie Ginsburg are also certain to be utilized later in the match.

# Israel up 2-0 vs. Estonia in Federation Cup

HEATHER CHAIT

EVEN without Anna Smashnova, the national women's tennis team easily defeated underdogs Estonia on the first day of the Fed Cup Europe/Africa Qualifying Group II Event in Ramat Hasharon yesterday.

When the matches finally began four hours late due to the rain, Nataly Cabana, 530 in the WTA rankings, smashed Helena Lill 6-1, 6-0. Hila Rosen (335) had a closer first set against Helen Laupa before settling down to win

by the scores of 7-5, 6-1. Although Israel now has an unassailable 2-0 lead and was scheduled for a free day today, Cahana and Tzippi Obziler will return to play the doubles which was delayed when the rain returned yesterday evening. Israel, the fourth seed, will play Zimbabwe tomorrow, and Macedonia and Luxembourg on Thursday and Friday respectively.

Smashnova (75) was due to return last night from tournaments in America and will assume her role as Israel's No. 1 player for tomorrow's game.

Malta completed her games yesterday with a 3-0 win against Iceland.

In the other unfinished matches, third seed Finland is leading Turkey 2-0, Tunisia is up 2-0 against Lichtenstein, Luxembourg has a 1-0 lead over Zimbabwe and Denmark is leading Ireland 1-0.

# Capriati, Graf and Sampras move on at Lipton

KEY BISCAYNE (Reuter) - Unseeded and unranked as of yet in her return to tennis, Jennifer Capriati was tested, but toughed it out for a 6-4, 0-6, 6-1 over 10th-seeded, 15th-ranked Amanda Coetzer of South Africa Sunday at the \$4.1 million Lipton Championships.

"It feels great to beat someone ranked liked her and I'm happy I did it," said Capriati, who meets fourth-seeded Gabriela Sabatini in the fourth round. "I'm very happy and I'm very excited."

Top-seeded Steffi Graf of Germany needed only 66 minutes to sail through American doubles expert Gigi Fernandez 6-3 6-2 in another third-round match.

Second-seeded Pete Sampras faced a stiff one hour, 25 minute challenge from 42nd-ranked Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland before taking a 7-5, 7-6(7-3) third-round win.

Fourth seed Michael Chang extended his current win streak to seven matches with a tough victory over Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman 6-3, 6-2. Capriati, who turns 20 years old next week, is hitting her ground-

strokes as heavily as ever. And even when she appeared momentarily tired in the second set, she was able to regroup and dominate Coetzer.

"Never say you're out of it, until you're out of it," Capriati said. "I knew she's quick and I had to be ready to go for every ball. I knew I had to be ready to stay out there."

By match end, Capriati had scored 30 winners, but had also racked up 55 unforced errors, with a large majority of the errors taking place in the disappointing second set.

In the third set, the young American was unstoppable. She started with a service break compliments of two errors by Coetzer at deuce - a double fault, followed by a forehand wide.

Her momentum never wavered from that point on as she allowed Coetzer to hold serve only one

time, in the fifth game of the third set.

Typically at this event, conditions are windy and can play havoc with the ball.

Sampras has not been having the best of years, even though he won titles at San Jose and Memphis. He lost in the third round of the Australian Open to Mark Philippoussis, withdrew from the quarter-finals of Rotterdam in February with a sprained foot and only reached the quarter-finals of Indian Wells, the lead-up tournament to the Lipton.

Although Sampras defeated Hlasek, a player who was considering retirement last summer when his ranking fell to 124, he did not seem on top of his game.

"Today wasn't pretty tennis, but I fought pretty well and hung in there," said Sampras, who meets 16th-seeded Todd Martin in the next round.

### SCOREBOARD

BOWLS - Yesterday's world championships results from Adelaide: Israel's Jeffrey Rabkin beat Douis Calitz of Namibia 25-22 and Malaysia's Zanirun Baba 25-9

Joseph Hoffman, Sports Editor



BREAKING THE ICE - Ottawa Senators' Denis Vial (r) lands a punch on Edmonton Oilers' Kelly Buchberger, in Sunday's action.

# Penguins take over 1st

NEW YORK (AP) - Sergei Zubov scored twice in a six-goal second period as the Pittsburgh Penguins crushed the New York Rangers 8-2 Sunday night to take over first place in the NHL's Eastern Conference.

The Penguins played without Mario Lemieux, who rested following Saturday night's 7-5 loss to Buffalo. But they didn't need the league's leading scorer as Zubov and Petr Nedved, two former Rangers traded in the off-season, took up the slack.

Zubov added an assist and Nedved had a goal and four assists as the Penguins extended the Rangers' home-ice winless streak to nine (0-5-4). It is a reversal of form for the Rangers, who had posted a club record-tying 24-game unbeaten streak at home earlier in the season.

Blues 2, Red Wings 2 (OT) Goalender Grant Fuhr made 37

saves as the hosts tied Detroit, snapping the Red Wings' nine-game winning streak. It was the 73rd consecutive start for Fuhr, who is two games shy of tying his own record for most games in a season by a goalie.

Chris Osgood stopped 27 shots for Detroit and extended his unbeaten streak to 20 games.

Wayne Gretzky and Adam Creighton scored for the Blues. Gretzky has 15 points in 12 games with the Blues.

Oilers 3, Senators 2 Kelly Buchberger got the go-ahead goal with 9:21 left in the game and Edmonton scored three times in the third period to record a home win.

The victory kept Edmonton's playoff hopes alive. The Oilers are 10th in the West, just two points behind Anaheim and Winnipeg for the final playoff berth.

Sunday's games: Anaheim 2, Chicago 2, Colorado 5, Winnipeg 2, Edmonton 3, Ottawa 2, Detroit 2, St. Louis 2, Pittsburgh 8, NY Rangers 2.

EASTERN CONFERENCE	
Atlantic Division	
N.Y. Rangers	37 21 14 88 249 209
Florida	38 25 9 85 237 236
Philadelphia	36 22 13 85 241 186
New Jersey	33 28 11 77 187 171
Hartford	33 28 11 77 213 229
Tampa Bay	33 29 10 76 201 187
Washington	20 43 8 48 203 275
Northeast Division	
Pittsburgh	43 28 4 80 328 250
Montreal	38 28 8 80 237 220
Boston	34 29 9 77 248 238
Toronto	30 32 8 69 211 225
Ottawa	28 37 7 63 212 228
Buffalo	15 53 4 34 157 258
WESTERN CONFERENCE	
Central Division	
Detroit	55 12 5 115 392 180
Chicago	37 24 12 86 247 194
St. Louis	31 29 15 75 196 210
Toronto	28 34 12 68 215 230
Winnipeg	30 37 5 65 240 265
Dallas	23 36 13 59 202 241
Pacific Division	
Colorado	42 22 10 94 291 216
Calgary	30 31 11 71 215 210
Vancouver	28 31 15 71 254 255
Anaheim	29 35 7 65 235 220
Edmonton	28 38 7 63 214 274
Los Angeles	21 37 16 58 230 275
San Jose	18 49 7 43 230 317
y-clinched division title	
x-clinched playoff spot	

# Please don't play it again, Sam

ARYEH DEAN COHEN

SPORTSWATCH

HIDE under your bed. Lock up your children. ITV's got a new replay machine, and things just aren't safe out there.

Not safe for self-respecting basketball fans, that is, who were forced to suffer through never-ending replays during last Thursday night's State Cup coverage.

True, the broadcast showed that ITV had made a quantum leap forward in terms of camera work. It's hard to remember the last time we had such close-up coverage of a basketball game on Channel One.

And the hard work paid off in tremendously improved camera angles and an overall impressive job. Of course, one wonders where all this equipment was during Maccabi's European season, but hey, let's give credit where credit's due.

However, overkill doesn't even begin to describe the complete overuse of the new Channel One

replay machine. It seemed as though we got a replay of every basket, spectacular or not, and almost every hoop was accompanied by a shot of the reaction of coaches Muli Kutzarin and Pini Gershon, even when they weren't exceptional. either. The special light used to highlight the location of the ball during one of the replays was unnecessary. And as we've mentioned before, trying to pick up the comments of coaches in the timeout huddles is a useless exercise, resulting only in Western-Union like snippets of the coaches' instructions: "Defense...big man...pass...foul."

We're thrilled ITV has finally used some of our license fee money to buy the new equipment and is finally catching up to Sports Channel in its presentation of basketball. However, instead of acting like a kid with a new toy, ITV producers should be more selective in choosing which shots to show, and which to leave out.

While on the subject of leaving things out, now that the end of the season is approaching, ITV should definitely start searching for a color man to replace Prof. Gabi Ben-Dor. There's simply no excuse for calling Hubert Roberts "Roberts Huberts," especially when the veteran Hapoel Jerusalem forward is wearing his last name on his back in English!

A replacement for Moshe Gertel as sideline reporter is also needed, especially if Gertel insists on asking dumb questions. With Jerusalem comfortably ahead of Hezliya at the half, Gertel asked Jerusalem captain Adi Gordon: "Are you surprised by your team's performance in the first half," and if he was surprised by the play of Gordon's running-mate, Papi Turjeman. Yeah, like Gordon's going to say: "Yes, Moshe, I thought our team would be losing by 20 at halftime, and Papi's been horrible all year." Get real, Gertel. We can only hope that the technological improvements will also bring the needed personnel changes as well.

Sports Channel's added a new filler to its schedule which is definitely worth catching: *Sportraits*, a Transworld production that focuses on famous sports personalities, chronicling their lives.

The most recent episode featured a look at two widely different characters, swimmer Mark Spitz and boxer George Foreman. What's good about the series is that it does more than offer a glorified picture of the athlete.

In Spitz's case, this included a famous quote from Spitz's father: "Swimming isn't everything - winning is, which explained a great deal about Spitz's incredible drive that led to his trying to regain his old form even though he was already in his late 30's. "What I was trying to do was defy

getting old," he explained. "I was trying to race with an old engine." Particularly interesting were his comments about the 1972 Munich massacre of Israeli athletes, after which he was criticized for having been whisked out of the Olympic village by American officials afraid of a possible attack on the Jewish Spitz.

The people who sat in judgment and criticism of my leaving most likely were people of the Jewish faith who thought that I was to single-handedly go and correct the problem or save the situation, which obviously would've been totally out of my hands or capability," said Spitz.

The portrait of Foreman was even more fun, and not only because we worship Foreman as the God of All Male Athletes Over 40. Foreman readily admitted he was "mugging people" in 1965 before he was "rescued from the gutter" by President Lyndon Johnson's Job Corps program.

It was great to hear Howard Cosell broadcasting Foreman's 1968 Olympic triumph, but the best was Foreman's recollection of his fight against Joe Frazier: "Usually, I would look an opponent in the eyes, and when he lowered his eyes, I knew I had him. I didn't want Joe Frazier to drop his eyes, cuz if he did, he would've seen my knees shakin'."

Thursday at 8:30 pm, *Sportraits* looks at tennis legend Evonne Cawley and hockey's Wayne Gretzky - don't miss it.

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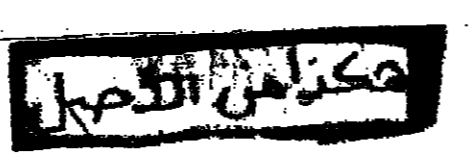
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Friday, March 26, 1996
Hap J'lem whips Galil
RICHARD ZAACKS

CRITIC'S CHOICE

THEATER

HELEN KAYE

SHULI Rand plays another of his tortured souls in Hanoch Levin's sardonic Agape, directed by Robert Stora. Levin's world is peopled by interchangeable units scrabbling their way futilely through existence.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

VIOLINIST Hagai Shabam and pianist Arnon Erez present a recital tonight at the Tel Aviv Museum playing sonatas by Schubert, Prokofiev, Beethoven and Bartok (8:30).

DANCE

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

THE Batsheva Ensemble, the very young and vibrant junior partner to the Dance Company of the same name, presents a mixed program tonight through Thursday at the Suzanne Dellal Center in Tel Aviv (9).



The Batsheva Ensemble performs Noa Dar's 'Lachrymose' at the Suzanne Dellal Center in Tel Aviv. (Gadi Dagon)

TELEVISION

RUTH KERN

OSCAR-ed out? After all the glitz and gowns, perhaps you're in the mood for a movie that is small, off-the-wall and boasts no major stars. No, not Babe - the tale of the talking pig who thinks he's a sheepdog - which hasn't opened here yet. For the perfect antidote to Hollywood humbug, tune in to Jordan Television at 11:25 p.m. for Harold and Maude.

TELEVISION

CHANNEL 1

8:30 News in Arabic 8:45 Exercise Hour 7:00 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Silly Cat 8:15 Kitty Cat and Tommy 8:30 Fables of King Babar 9:00 Cartoons 10:00 A Clever Girl Like Lita 10:30 Kids Can Rock and Roll 11:00 Lot's and Hor Friends 11:30 Rascals and Robbers 13:00 Cartoons 15:00 Current Affairs

CHANNEL 1

15:30 Zap to 1 16:20 Juvenile Court 16:59 A New Evening 17:34 News in English 17:50 Friendly soccer match between Israel and Croatia 18:45 News in Arabic 19:00 Second half of soccer match relayed live from Croatia 19:45 Special marathon broadcast on the Likud primaries anchored by Chaim Yavin 20:50 Live Lotto draw 20:55 Likud primaries continued 00:30 Verse of the Day

CHANNEL 2

7:00 Special news round-up of the Labor Party primaries 8:30 Cartoons 9:00 Happy Ever After - selection of perennially popular fables for children based on Sholem Aleichem's well-loved tale. Shmuel Rodensky stars in the title role. (120 mins.) 13:00 Sugar and Spice 14:00 Open-Cards - young people's talk show 15:00 Disney cartoons 16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful 17:00 News magazine with Rafi Reshef 17:30 First Love - romantic game show for youngsters 18:00 Ruby - human interest interview show 19:00 Lingo - TV game show 19:30 Special extended news broadcast 20:25 Ramat Aviv Gimnel 21:05 Gov Night - comedy 22:00 Ilana Dayan special in conjunction with Channel 2 news team - The Likud Primaries 1:00 Poem of the day

JORDAN TV

15:00 Captain Planet - cartoon 15:30 Johnny Quest 15:25 Into the Happy Professor - cartoon 16:00 Bob Morrison 16:40 Scientific Eyes - documentary 17:10 TAO - drama 18:00 French programs 20:30 News headlines 20:35 Thunder Alley 21:00 Clive Anderson 22:25 The Bold and the Beautiful 22:10 Harry - drama 23:00 News in English 23:25 Harold and Maude

FAMILY CHANNEL (3)

8:00 Falcon Crest (pt) 9:00 One Life to Live (pt) 9:45 The Young and the Rubidious (pt) 10:30 The Young and the Rubidious (pt) 11:25 Celeste (pt) 12:10 Neighbors (pt) 12:35 Perry Mason 13:30 Starting at 1:30 14:05 The A Team 14:55 Falcon Crest 15:45 Secrets of the North 16:40 Neighbors 17:10 Models Inc. 18:00 One Life to Live 18:45 The Young and the Rubidious 19:30 Local broadcast 20:00 Celeste 20:50 Beverly Hills 90210 21:40 Cadillac Girls (1993) - A widowed mother and 18-year-old daughter go to a quiet Northern town. The daughter takes drastic measures in order to stay.

STAR PLUS

6:00 Aerobics 6:30 The Artist and the Professor 7:00 Beverly Hills 90210 7:30 Yan Can Cook 8:00 Entertainment Tonight 8:30 Gabrielle 9:30 Santa Barbara 10:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 11:00 Oprah Winfrey 12:00 Remington Steele 13:00 Yan Can Cook 13:30 El Trece 14:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 14:30 Small Wonder 15:00 Black Scorpion 15:30 Betina 16:30 Home and Away 18:30 Entertainment Tonight 17:00 M\*A\*S\*H 17:30 The Flying Doctors 18:30 The Extraordinary 19:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 20:00 Santa Barbara 21:30 Hard Copy 21:30 Baywatch 22:30 Andrea's Targets 23:30 Entertainment Tonight 00:30 Oprah Winfrey 1:00 Hard Copy 1:30 Home and Away 2:00 The Sullivans

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

10:30 Metropolitan (1990) - young kid and bored in New York (94 mins) (pt) 12:05 Short Film 12:20 Inspector General... (1949) - adaptation of Gogol's short story with Danny Kaye (102 mins.) (pt) 14:10 Sinbad (1993) - animated version of Arabian Nights classic (81 mins.) (pt) 15:35 The 23rd Annual Academy Awards (1974) 17:20 Melvin Purvis (1974) (pt) 18:35 Kitty Docks Story (1993) - a woman kills her abusive husband, runs away from prison to start a new life, but is pursued by her past (92 mins.) 20:15 Vantage Point - action series 21:00 Viper (1993) - Travis is asked by the woman who left him for his brother to come back and save him. He cannot refuse, but is she selling the truth? (85 mins.) 22:30 Highlander II (1991) -

WHERE TO GO

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QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Eurasian country (6) 4 Orotund (5) 8 Enmerate (5) 9 Compliant (7) 10 Generous (7) 11 Parched (4) 12 Drink (3) 14 French cheese (4) 15 Every one (4) 18 Lair (3) 21 Finishes (4) 23 Inspect (7) 25 Instructed (7) 26 Perfect (5) 27 Throw out (5) 28 Shooting star (6)

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 As a result of strike, promise illumination (9) 9 After breakdown, can idle in the country (7) 10 The French junior is to do the washing (7) 11 Assignment accepted by stout evangelist (7) 12 In the doghouse (9) 14 The best advice to give viewers? (8) 15 Environmentalists are for putting on! (6) 17 Appeal when vehicle overturns in a race (7) 20 Like the carrier that can't be found (6) 23 A Roman emperor's bloomer (8)

DOWN 2 Layman taking a degree with true potential (7) 3 Article retained by coppers as stoneage (7) 4 Fancy catalogue for the perfectionist (8) 5 Gunman involved in the current fulmination (6) 6 Possibly most cared for party in America (9) 7 Bird pictures framed by many to hire out (7) 8 Save dirty get-up for hard times (9) 13 Stand with outstretched arms on the table! (7) 15 Texan city girl in her underwear (9) 16 No single sailor flew back, so the story goes (9) 18 Sick around a good man playing chess (8) 19 Without woman, colours and laments (7) 21 Draw game, being an artist (7) 22 A place of learning made changes in one (7) 24 About to occupy old people as promised (6)

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD grid with numbers 1-28 indicating starting positions for words.

SOLUTIONS

SOLUTIONS grid with filled-in crossword puzzle and corresponding words.

QUICK CROSSWORD

QUICK CROSSWORD grid with filled-in crossword puzzle and corresponding words.

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# Diplomats urge steady flow of goods to Gaza

DAVID MAKOVSKY and news agencies

DIPLOMATS from several countries yesterday urged Israel to ensure that goods or raw materials can enter Gaza regularly, so that an international emergency plan to provide short-term employment assistance to the Palestinians there will not be stifled.

In response, Foreign Ministry officials said more would be done to facilitate the movement of goods.

"There has to be a revision of Israeli procedures for getting goods into Gaza. Otherwise, nothing the donors do will amount to anything," a US diplomat warned.

The plan to at least partially alleviate the economic effects of the closure is needed, since the operating assumption is that it will remain in force at least until after the elections on May 29, several officials indicated.

There are different estimates for the scope and timing of the project. US officials said they expect 20,000 jobs will be created within the next few weeks in public works, agriculture, and private industry. Others say 30,000 jobs can be created, but insist it will take a few months.

The focus is on Gaza instead of the West Bank because the unemployment there is considered more acute.

UN special coordinator for the territories Dr. Terje Larsen said last week that the UN would coordinate a \$100 million emergency employment package.

Norway announced yesterday that it would contribute \$10 million dollars. Japan is also expected to make a new contribution.

Foreign Ministry officials said Israel has yet to be asked to contribute a specific sum to the emergency fund, even though Prime Minister Shimon Peres told the cabinet last week that Israel would do so.

Discussions about revising procedures at the Karni crossing were discussed in a meeting between Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir, Finance Ministry Director-General David Brodet, deputy coordinator of activities in the territories Brig-Gen. Baruch Spiegel, Larsen, and US Ambassador Martin Indyk.

Diplomats representing the rotating leadership of the European Union also met with Savir.

Western diplomats said that Palestinian unemployment has increased since Israel has reduced the 3,000 tons of cement normally allowed into Gaza every day by 90 percent, paralyzing the construction industry which employs 23,000.

Israel has said the delays are due to security inspections of trucks, thereby fueling speculation that Israel will sharply increase the number of inspectors available.

The Palestinian Authority, meanwhile, plans to deduct 5 percent from its employees' wages to fund new jobs for thousands of Palestinians, an official said yesterday.

Mohammed Jaradeh, undersecretary in the Finance Ministry, said the measure was part of a broader initiative to help cope with increasingly difficult economic conditions.

Jaradeh said the salary deduction decision affected some 50,000 civil servants and policemen and could raise up to \$3 million, which will be invested in creating jobs for up to 30,000 unemployed Palestinians on a rotating basis.

It was the first time the PA has asked its civil servants and police to take a salary cut to help the unemployed. Jaradeh said average wages were around \$600.

Banks, universities and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) have also agreed to make deductions from their employees to help the scheme, Jaradeh said.



Minister Yossi Beilin and Jordanian Planning Minister Rima Khalaf appear at a press conference at the Prime Ministry in Amman yesterday. After talks with Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Abdel-Karim Kabariti, Beilin said a political settlement between Israel and Hamas was now impossible, but added that "the closure will not go on forever." (Reuters)

**WEATHER**

Forecast: Rainy. Low temperatures.

**AROUND THE WORLD**

Location	Low	High	Cloud
Amsterdam	9	11	cloudy
Berlin	11	13	clear
Buenos Aires	11	13	clear
Calcutta	12	14	clear
Chicago	12	14	clear
Copenhagen	12	14	clear
Helsinki	12	14	clear
London	12	14	clear
Los Angeles	12	14	clear
Madrid	12	14	clear
Moscow	12	14	clear
New York	12	14	clear
Paris	12	14	clear
Rome	12	14	clear
Stockholm	12	14	clear

## Amir verdict, sentencing tomorrow

RAINE MARCUS

TEL AVIV District Court will issue its verdict and sentence tomorrow in the trial of Yigal Amir, confessed assassin of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

In most trials sentencing takes place several days after the verdict, giving both the prosecution and defense time to present arguments which may influence the punishment.

The defense may produce character witnesses for sentencing, but Amir's lawyers are not expected to summon any since they cannot influence the mandatory life sentence for murder.

While testifying, Amir confessed several times to the premeditated murder of Rabin, and in the absence of an insanity plea, Judges Edmond Levy, Saviyona Rotlevy, and Gede Mudrich must pass a life sentence.

The hearing will be beamed to nine video screens in the court library to enable reporters, photographers, and others to see the trial. This is the first time such a screening will be held.

**Winning cards**  
In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the seven of spades, ace of hearts, jack of diamonds, and ten of clubs.

**Israeli official: Pollard didn't throw me out**  
HILLEL KUTTNER

WASHINGTON

THE first Israeli official to visit imprisoned Jonathan Pollard called yesterday's *Ma'ariv* report that claimed Pollard threw him out just after their meeting began on Sunday "inaccurate."

Speaking from the Atlanta consulate-general, Eitan Sirkus-Almog said their meeting at the federal prison in Butner, North Carolina, went on for an hour and that he was not the source for the report.

Israeli embassy officials also disputed the account, saying the meeting was conducted in a "good, appropriate atmosphere." "No one requested that he leave," the official said. "The facts are that they spoke for an hour."

Pollard had "many questions and requests" during the meeting, he added, but neither Sirkus-Almog nor the embassy official would reveal anything of the substance of the meeting. Israeli officials will meet with Pollard again, although who and when have yet to be determined, the official said.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres raised the Pollard case during President Bill Clinton's visit to Israel two weeks ago, and Ambassador US Itamar Rabinovich is "very active" on Pollard's behalf, the official said.

However, Pollard's father Morris said yesterday that while he did not know of the meeting, the Israeli government "took the easy way out" by not sending Rabinovich to visit. "In some ways, I would take this as an insult."

## Rescue workers: Iran's Jews may pay for criticism

MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK

AN American Jewish immigration agency has jeopardized the Jewish community in Iran by spotlighting the Islamic state, rescue workers from the US charge.

Rescue workers also said the agency, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, allowed the threat against Jews in Iran to be overstated to bolster its own survival. The agency rejected those contentions.

"HIAS doesn't need to do things [like this] to keep itself alive," said Norman Tilles, the president of HIAS, adding that the agency has been operating for 115 years.

Last month, an Iranian Jewish immigrant to the US related to the Congress a harrowing story of fear, terror and imprisonment. His testimony was arranged by HIAS amid the legislative debates on American immigration policy.

The Iranian, identified by the pseudonym Shahin Abkazian, was so afraid of the Teheran

government's possible retribution that he declined to appear in public. Tilles read Abkazian's testimony into the record of the International Relations Committee's subcommittee on human rights.

The hearing was arranged by the subcommittee chairman, Republican Congressman Christopher Smith.

"When Representative Smith says, 'Tell me about the persecution of the Jews,' should we leave out Iran, where Jews are being persecuted?" Tilles asked. Martin Wenick, the executive director of HIAS, said that when the hearing was being planned, no Jewish organizations raised objections to the Iranian testimony.

Abkazian's story was reported last week by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency and is expected to be published this week by American Jewish newspapers.

In the past, the emigration of Jews from distressed nations, such as Syria and Ethiopia, has been kept under wraps until the Jews were freed.

"When we talk about these issues we are on the horns of a dilemma," said Tilles. It is a choice between identifying the problem or remaining mum because exposure might cause trouble, Tilles said, defending HIAS's decision to publicize the plight of Iranian Jews. "We did what we thought was best in our judgment."

No one has disputed Abkazian's testimony, but rescue workers, who declined to be named, were aggrieved that a single statement was used to paint an alarming picture. That view also put rescue

workers in a quandary. They were quick to say that Iran was to be vilified for its support of terrorism and for its nuclear program. However, they cautioned, the Jewish community in Iran was fairly well treated, and they took exception to Abkazian's statement that "the Jewish community is being gradually excluded from any possibility of further existence in Iran."

An estimated 18,000 Jews remain in Iran, roughly one-fifth of the community that existed before the exodus began a dozen years ago. They have been maintaining active synagogues and Jewish schools, medical centers and an old-age home with the encouragement of the Iranian authorities, according to reports reaching New York.

HIAS also overstepped its bounds when it announced that it was processing between 20 and 30 Iranian Jews a month, rescue workers said, noting that emigration from Iran was dangerous.

## Report: Hizbullah unswayed by Syrian pressure

DAVID RUDGE

HIZBULLAH yesterday vowed to continue its attacks against IDF and South Lebanese Army targets inside the security zone, despite reports of pressure from Syria and the Lebanese government on it to curb activities at least until after the elections in Israel.

The Beirut daily *As-Safir* had earlier quoted sources close to Lebanese President Elias Hrawi as saying that Beirut, Damascus, and Tel Aviv had agreed to US proposals to keep the situation calm - and help Prime Minister Shimon Peres in the elections.

Other newspapers reported that America

had wanted to amend the July 1993 Operation Accountability understandings to put a ban on all fighting in the region, but this was rejected by Syria.

Instead, said the reports, the US had proposed a "period of tranquility" in return for Israel agreeing to refrain from launching any major operation against Hizbullah.

Hizbullah's answer to the reports came yesterday. *As-Safir* quoted a senior Hizbullah source as saying there had not been any con-

tacts between the organization and either Syrian or Lebanese officials.

"These reports are mere illusions - wishful thinking on the part of the Americans and the Israelis," the source was quoted as saying.

"Why should the Syrians or ourselves be concerned about Peres's election campaign? The resistance will continue and what will happen on the ground will prove whether I am right or wrong. The resistance will not change. "Everything you hear is a political cover-up to justify Israel's inability to launch an operation that would be very expensive for it."

## Peres still believes in 'new Middle East'

ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

SOME 300 of the world's leading journalists and media executives, meeting in Jerusalem yesterday, found Prime Minister Shimon Peres still able to discern a new Middle East through the smoke of the recent suicide bombings.

Peres told the International Press Institute world congress that the PLO and the 13 Arab countries who had participated in the Sharm e-Sheikh conference had taken a stand against terrorism inconceivable only two or three years ago.

"I remain optimistic that by the end of the century, in another four years, the Middle East will see peace," he said. "There is no better alternative for the Arabs and none for us."

Peres, however, uncharacteristically etched a grey lining to his silver cloud by pointing to the efforts of the fundamentalist movement, headed by Iran, to

obtain a nuclear option. If the fundamentalists succeed in obtaining the ultimate weapon and get themselves better organized, he said, "we shall have a problem incomparable to any known in history."

The congress was initially intended to be held on alternate days in Jerusalem and Jericho, with the Israeli and Palestinian views of the Middle East peace process offered. IPI director Johann Fritz said that the Palestinians, after accepting this arrangement, reversed themselves and insisted that the Palestinian venue be shifted from Jericho to east Jerusalem.

"We firmly believe that the Palestinians missed out on an important opportunity to present their own evaluation of the peace process to an international gathering of the world's leading media representatives," he said.



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